THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD has joined the DENR's Green Philippines program, Trees for Life, which aims to plant 20 million seedlings in denuded forests and watersheds by the end of the year. In Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, the Coast Guard is into planting mangrove trees to revive the coastal ecosystem that was devastated by the oil spill that hit Guimaras, with Nueva Valencia one of the most heavily affected, in August 2006,

GMA suspends NBN deal

₱26.4-B cyber education project also shelved indefinitely

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE CONTROVERSIAL NATIONAL BROADBAND NETwork (NBN) project that was awarded to China's ZTE Corp. has been ordered suspended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

the project was Transportation and nothing to do with the deal-who Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, it was Trade Secrétary Peter

While the government signatory to Favila-who had earlier said he had made the "major announcement" be-

Venecia III, a son of the Speaker, had told a Senate inquiry that the President's husband had tried to bully him into backing off from the \$329-million project.

"I just would like to share with you that the much-talked-about and much-maligned broadband project, upon the instruction of the President, has been suspended," Favila told the

Pour days earlier, Jose "Joey" de small group of reporters who made it to the hastily called press conference in the lobby of the Edsa Shangri-La hotel in Mandaluyong City.

He was accompanied by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, the acting justice secretary.

Asked how long the suspension would last, he said: "Indefinitely."

Favila said the President had also or-

GMA SUSPENDS/ALL

Senators to continue probe; graft issues remain

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SENATORS YESTERDAY GAVE NOTICE that they would continue the inquiry into the \$329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project that has enmeshed President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and Transporta-

Soldiers turn

air base into

veggie farm

By Tarra Quismundo

Air Force base here.

into a vegetable garden.

tion and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza in an alleged corruption

The senators found suspicious Malacañang's suspension of the deal with China's ZTE Corp., and insisted that the President should altogether cancel the contract signed by Mendoza in April on behalf of the Philippine government.

"For all intents and purposes, the ZTE contract is suspended because the Supreme Court has issued a restraining order in the implementation of the contract. The decision, therefore, should be to rescind the contract and not to merely suspend it," said Majori-

ty Leader Francis Pangilinan. He criticized Malacañang for not ad-

dressing the lack of transparency in the transaction and the alleged kickbacks involved.

"Will this (suspension) mean that those who compromised transparency and those who did not follow the standard procedures in this transaction will be reprimanded? Or will this

SENATORS/A4



Joe on Joey: 'An agent of the Lord'

By Norman Bordadora

CRITICS MAY SCOFF AT JOSE "Joey" De Venecia III as the exdrug addict who threw a monkey wrench into China's plan to help the Philippines put up a National Broadband Network (NBN).

But to his father, Speaker Jose De Venecia, Joey is an "agent of the Lord," following President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision yesterday to suspend indefinitely the \$329-million NBN network deal

JOE ON JOEY/ A6

School rises from the ashes of Pinatubo

By Fernando del Mundo

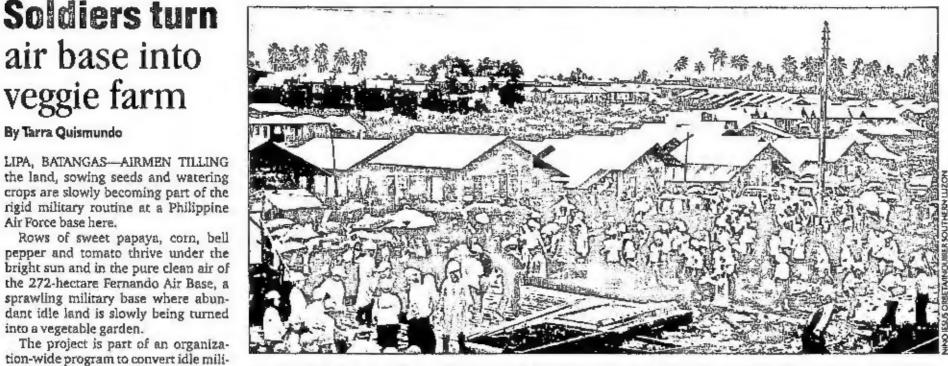
IMELDA MACASPAC KNEW SHE HAD a lot to do when she returned to her alma mater in 2002 to become its princi-

Pampanga High School (PHS) was then half-buried in lahar, swept there over the years during the rainy season from higher grounds covered with ash, mud and other pyroclastic materials spewed by Mount Pinatubo during its cataclysmic eruption in 1991.

Most of the 77 buildings and thatched buts where over 9,000 students held classes in 180 rooms were severely damaged and filthy.

There were only two toilets-unserviceable most of the time-on the campus sprawled over six hectares in downtown San Fernando, the Pampanga provincial capital. Students defecated everywhere, breeding swarms of flies and mosquitoes.

When the rains came, the school was waist-deep in water. The floods re-SCHOOL/AI3



HOT PROJECT: The Bicol Express Caravan of Habitat for Humanity Philippines arrives at the Anislag resettlement in Daraga, Albay, with 600 volunteers wearing yellow hard hats ready to build 2,000 houses worth P70,000 each for victims of typhoon "Reming" last year who are still living in tents and shanties. Beneficiaries are only required to put in 500 hours of "sweat equity." Former Miss Universe Margie Moran, Habitat Philippines cochair, is one of the caravan pioneers. (Story on Page A8.)

Tender loving hospice care in the comfort of home

By Volt Contreras

Macapagal-Arroyo.

HUMAN RIGHTS THAT ARE WORTH dying for should also include the "rights of the dying" to spend their last days in comfort and minimal pain.

tary land into productive use on orders

of the Commander in Chief, President

This is the conviction that drives hospice care volunteers Asuncion

Kalalo, a lawyer, and Elisa Allado, a doctor, to set aside their Sunday mornings to visit the homes of the terminally ill in depressed areas south of Mani-

They raise funds and gather donations to provide patients with free morphine; lend them wheelchairs, oxygen

tanks and nebulizers, and arrange ambulance services, among other things. They also provide psychological and family counseling, as well as prayers.

They are stepping up their campaign this week as the Philippines plays host to the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel

from Sept. 27 to 29.

Early this month, for instance, the hospice volunteers paid a visit to "Lyn," 45, a single mother of two, to check on her supply of medication for her numbing headaches.

"They are like angels," Lyn, who TENDER/ A6

Your ride to success right here

TOOTING HIS OWN HORN:

Police officer, a PMAyer cum laude grad who solved 2 kidnap cases, plays '50s-'60s classics

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

AT HOME: Top creative minds of interior/fashion designers want to get inside your house

LIFESTYLE / F4

LESS THAN GENTLE JOURNEYS:

4 decades after her onscreen debut, eternal rebel Gina Pareño finally finds redemption, recognition

ENTERTAINMENT / G4

LOVE

in a time of martial law

GLOBAL PINOY / A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and or thunderstorms mostly in the alternoon or evening.

Metro Martin Cloudy wills Rains		Hello/Bacalad	Cloudy with Rains	
Bagulo	Cloudy with Rains	Rouas	Cloudy with Rains	
Tuguagarao	Cloudy with Rains	Ceta	Cloudy with Rains	
Lacag	Clourly with Rains	Taclober	Mostly Cloudy	
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Ben. Sentos	Parily Cloudy	
Togaytay	Cloudy with Rates	Zamboaoga	Partly Cloudy	
Lagazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Садауан де Вер	Partly Cloudy	
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Bireas Changa da an an an an	Partly Cloudy	

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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN 1 5 21 22 27 29

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GMA for absolute pardon for Erap

Vidal, Pardo said to be negotiating with Palace for convicted leader

WHAT'S INSIDE CHILDREN INT'L,

Habitat build houses for Bicol typhoon victims

POLISE TO LIST barang: y polls 'hot spots'

SENATORS VOW smooth sailing for cheap meds bill

By Michael Llm Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS WILLING to grant an "absolute pardon" to convicted plunderer, deposed President Joseph Estrada, Malacañang said yesterday.

"Absolute means unconditional," said Sergio Apostol, the ing that the issue could be represidential legal adviser, dis- solved before Christmas and pelling speculation that there that the talks would be conwould be strings attached to the cluded soon. presidential pardon for Estrada, the first Philippine president to Secretary Ronaldo Puno and be convicted under the Anti-Plunder Law.

The Sandiganbayan antigraft court on Sept. 12 found Estrada guilty of plunder for collecting hundreds of millions of pesos from illegal gambling and insider trading.

Estrada was sentenced to life in prison but Apostol said the all. disgraced leader, who turned 70 in April, was now eligible for

tions," Apostol said, confirm-

Just the day before, Interior other administration officials said that discussions on the grant of either a pardon or amnesty to Estrada were al-

ready in an "advanced stage" and that Estrada might be freed from his "rest house arrest" by Christmas without having served his sentence at

Explaining that absolute and unconditional pardons were synonymous, Apostol said no "We will not impose condi- conditions whatsoever would

be imposed on the convict being Venecia said the other day that pardoned.

Apostol, who was a prosecutor in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in the Senate in 2001, explained that a conditional pardon would mean that Estrada would be granted parole, that is, a prisoner is temporarily released before the completion of a sentence on the promise of good

But he said President Arroyo had the authority to grant an absolute pardon.

Apostol said he did not know, why Estrada was issuing mixed signals about a possible pardon.

The convicted former President had denied being in negotiations with the administration for the pardon. But if he were to accept the offer of a pardon, it must be an "unconditional" one which should definitely not include an admission of guilt, he

However, Speaker Jose de

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, the Cebu archbishop, was negotiating for the disgraced leader. He said Estrada's former trade secretary, Jose Pardo, was also part of the talks.

Puno told reporters Friday that he saw the "beginnings of an agreement" and that Estrada has said he would accept a par-

Apostol urged Estrada to forego appealing the Sandiganbayan's guilty verdict against in motion" the process of pardoning him.

Estrada will only prolong the process if his lawyers seek judicial relief in both the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court, he said.

Elevating Estrada's appeal to the high court could take years to resolve, he said.

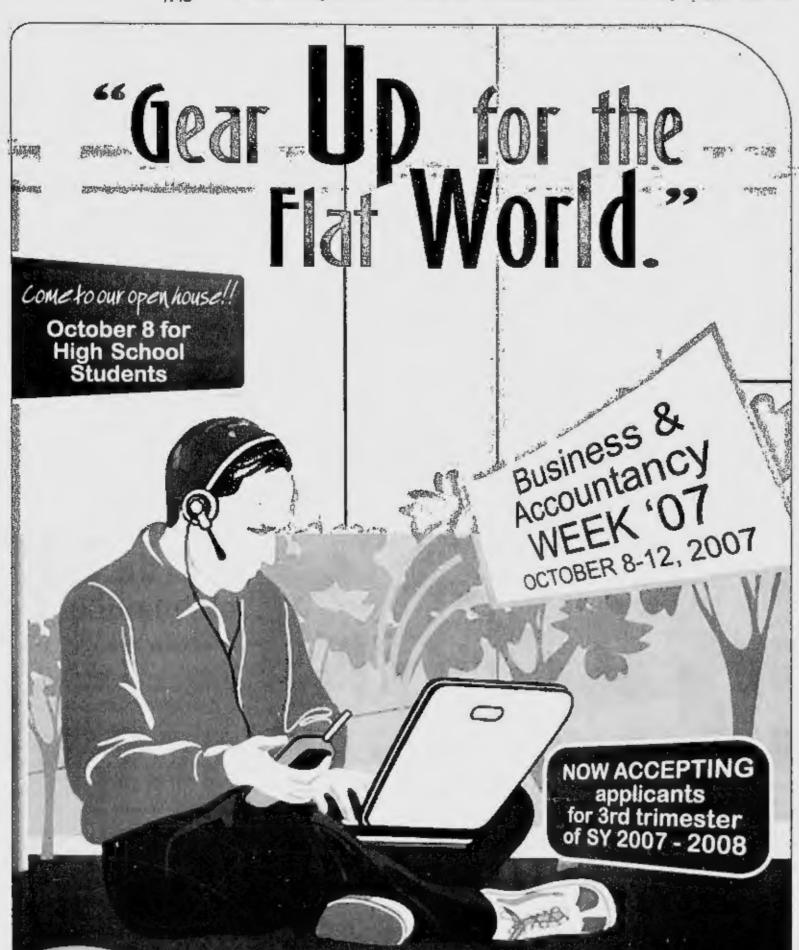
'So our appeal for him is to withdraw all his motions and allow the court's decision to become final and executory, then he would negotiate with the President. Then our President can start the process ... for him to avail of a pardon, but that remains in the hands of Erap if he agrees. If not, nothing will happen," Apostol said.

Malacañang has ruled out the idea of an amnesty for Estrada, saying that only political offenders were covered by an amnesty. Plunder is a criminal offense.

"We will have problems (If he him so the government "can set opts for amnesty] because amnesty is for political offenders only and not for plunderers," said Apostol.

He explained that the amnesty proclamation issued recently by Ms Arroyo covered communist "groups and those who committed political offenses."

He said Estrada could claim that "I'm a communist," so he would be covered by the



Doctors urge higher health care budget, since economy's up

for health care is still far from the economy is on the upswing. the international standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to a nongovernment organization of doctors.

The Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD) has urged the government to prioritize health care for the poor by increasing the Department of Health's budget amid the backdrop of an improving economy,

in a statement yesterday, HEAD deputy secretary general Dr. Geneve Rivera said that while the proposed P15.762billion DOH budget for 2008 was higher than its 2007 budget, it was still only 1.3 percent of the proposed P1.23-trillion national budget for next year.

The DOH budget in 2007 was 1.1 percent of the national budget, and 1.6 percent in 2006.

Rivera said HEAD was calling for a health budget closer to the

By Beverly T. Natividad ... WHO-recommended 5 percent of gross national product DESPITE RECENT ECONOMIC (GNP), particularly since the gains, the government's budget administration has been saying

> "If the economy is really improving, then there is no reason not to go in this direction." Rivera said.

She said that, at the very least, the DOH budget should be around P50 billion to allow it to subsidize its hospitals, implement a comprehensive public health program and provide benefits to public health workers and professionals.

Rivera said the country's economic gains should first be reflected in public health care instead of, say, guns and bullets.

The group said the DOH budget only ranked seventh among the budgets for government agencies. The Department of National Defense would get about four percent of the budget pie while the Department of Transportation and Communications would get about two

Nat'l police makeover starts with stations

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S GOODBYE TO DINGY AND dark police stations.

In a bid to win back the public's trust and confidence in the police, the leadership of the Philippine National Police has started a project to uplift law enforcement capabilities around the country beginning with the improved physical ap-

pearance of police stations. Deputy Director General Jesus Verzosa, deputy chief for operations, said a clean and spruced up police station made a positive impression on the community.

"A well-lighted and clean police station gives the initial impact of good surroundings and makes for an atmosphere that is good for working and rendering public services," Verzosa told the INOUIRER.

He said the PNP's Program Management Office (PMO), which he heads and which is the proponent of the project, had

identified three vital aspects in improving law enforcement services. These are facilities development, systems and procedures, and human resources.

Besides rebuilding or repainting police stations, Verzosa said the project, dubbed "Model Police Stations," would upgrade communications equipment and other tools for fighting crime.

The project will also involve training the policemen at these stations to be more responsive and efficient in their duties.

Aiready, the project has gained the support of foreign donor countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as local government and

nongovernment units. "Eventually, we would want to elicit more support from the communities themselves. By getting more involved in the communities, we will know their needs and problems related to crime fighting," Verzosa

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Stench aborts Atienza tour of dirty Bulacan rivers

By Carmela Reyes Inquirer Central Luzon

MARILAO, BULACAN—HIS OWN technical officers had protested the inclusion of two rivers in this town in an international list of the world's "dirty 30" or worst-polluted places, questioning the criteria used in the survey.

But when Environment Secretary Lito Atienza arrived for a boat tour of the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system on Friday, the stench alone was enough to make him cancel the cruise at the last minute.

Atienza admitted that he cancelled the tour because he was stung by the

nauseating odor and "turned off" by the sad state of the river.

He said he would closely coordinate with Bulacan mayors, local environment officials and environment groups to clean up the rivers, hopefully "in two years."

Atienza chose to view the controversial rivers' condition from a safer distance atop the Poblacion Bridge here, and discussed ways to rehabilitate the toxic waterway with Gov. Joselito Mendoza, Mayor Epifanio Guillermo and other local government officials.

The Marilao and Meycauayan rivers were included in the list of the world's worst polluted places for 2007 compiled by Blacksmith Institute, an independent environment group based in New York.

The institute's report warned that "all the sites in the Dirty 30 are very toxic and dangerous to human health." Recycling plants and tanneries reportedly throw their waste untreated into the river, endangering the lives of some 250,000 residents.

The institute's top list was based on scoring criteria devised by an international panel that included researchers from Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University and Mount

Sinai Hospital, Specialists from Green Cross Switzerland also participated in this year's assessment of more than 400 polluted sites, a press release from the institute said.

Atienza appealed to the local officials to relocate the tanneries and factories along the rivers in Meycauayan City and Marilao town.

"That is what we did with Pasig River. We relocated the factories. Reviving the river cannot be done overnight," said Atienza, formerly the mayor of Manila.

He also urged local governments to stop issuing permits for new factories along the rivers and to strictly enforce

measures on proper garbage disposal.

Local officials, however, pointed to

Metro Manila towns and cities as an-

Metro Manila towns and cities as another cause of their woes.

On Wednesday, Guillermo said the waste of 300,000 residents of Caloocan

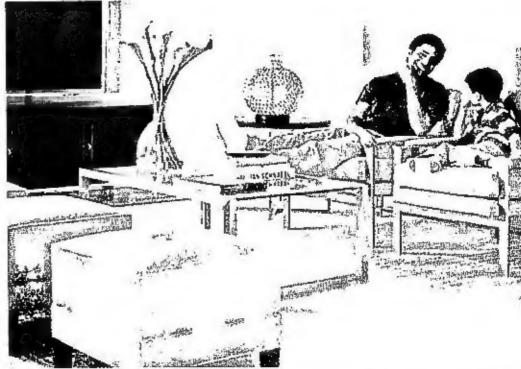
City were dumped in a relocation site in

Bagong Silang and were swept by flood-

waters into the waterways of Bulacan.
The Blacksmith report identified the pollutants in the Bulacan rivers as caricinogenic hexavalent chromium, heavy metals, pesticides, sewage, solid waste and tannery waste.

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Senators to continue probe; graft issues remain

merely be a move to pacify the noise of the controversy?" he said.

Pangilinan said the Senate would press on with its inquity so that "officials who enter into anomalous transactions" would be held accountable.

"Suspending the contract will not turn the problem around, nor prevent a repeat of this controversy. We will see this investigation through so that if any

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controversy, it is the lesson that we will not tolerate irregularities in public service," Pangilinan also said.

No effect on SC case

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Howard Xue, ZTE global marketing director and chief information technology consultant, said the fate of the NBN deal now rested with the Supreme Court.

-Imperialstar

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good should come out of this grave the Supreme Court, and whatever else would happen next must be done by following the legal process," Xue said in a phone interview shortly after Trade Secretary Peter Pavila announced the suspension of the deal.

> The suspension would have no effect on the case seeking its nullification pending in the Supreme Court, its spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said.

Early this month, the high court, act-"We all need to bring everything to ing on the petition of Iloilo Vice Gov.

Rolex Suplico and Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), voted 8-7 to Issue a temporary restraining order prohibiting government officials from enforcing the ZTE contract pending the resolution of the two cases filed against it.

"As long as the TRO is being respected, meaning that they do not proceed with any loans and implement the contract, there won't be any problem," Marquez said.

AHI had proposed a buildoperate-transfer (BOT) scheme for the NBN project. Its majority owner Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, a son and namesake of the Speaker, accused Abalos of trying to bribe him with \$10 million to pull out of the project, and Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, of telling him to "back off."

Abalos has denied the accusation and is set to testify at the Senate next week.

Graft issues still there

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who had earlier insisted that the NBN project was "unnecessary, overpriced and overde-Malacañang to drop it.

"Why not cancel the contract altogether to defuse the charged political atmosphere and enable the government to start anew on solid and transparent footing?" he said, adding:

"I believe our historic ties and friendship with China are strong enough to overcome this."

Roxas cochairs the inquiry with Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Rodolfo Biazon.

Sen. Francis Escudero said Ms Arroyo had ordered the suspension "to probably render the Senate inquiry moot."

"But I don't think the Senate will buy Thursday that lasted more than six it. Why just suspend [the contract when] the Supreme Court TRO already did that? The order is superfluous. She should already cancel it and order a review of all similar contracts entered into by government agencies,' Escudero said,

Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said the suspension of the deal had no effect on the inquiry because "graft and corruption issues are still relevant."

Said Roxas: "The Palace decision will not impair or derail our hearings because these are held in aid of legislation so that such odious transactions will not happen again."

He said the government should submit the details of the contract for scrutiny. "We also need to hear the side of Chairman Abalos and other Cabinet officials. Our people deserve nothing less than a full explanation of all these matters," he added.

'Thank God'

Speaker De Venecia said he received news of the suspension of the deal from the President herself.

"I said, 'Thank God.' This is what I've been asking for for some time," he said, describing his reaction after he received a "message" at around 11 a.m. from Ms Arroyo that she was suspending the NBN deal and the Cyber Education Project.

"I called her up and I congratulated her," he added.

The Speaker said the suspension was "an act of courage and a commonsensical decision" on the part of the President.

"I'm very happy. This will reduce the tension in the country, and the controversy," he said.

The Speaker said he hoped that the signed," again called on suspension of the NBN deal would result in its conversion into a BOT project.

"This is what I have been hoping for. That the contract be suspended and converted into a [BOT project]. There will be no foreign loan, there will be no government subsidy, there will be no sovereign risk" he said.

'Delaying tactic'

Sen. Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal said the President's suspension order betrayed "how desperate she is to cover up her tracks."

"This is a delaying tactic to make the people forget the issue at hand so that she can consummate the deal at a later time," Madrigal said.

According to the senator, the only way the President can show that she is not involved in the scandal is to demand the resignation of Abalos, Mendoza and Assistant Transportation Secretary Lorenzo Formoso.

The Senate has so far held two hearings on the NBN project.

During the second hearing last

hours, Mendoza and Formoso failed to convince the senators of the top-priority need of the government to set up its own NBN to be funded by a loan from

Mendoza insisted that Abalos had never talked to him about the NBN deal, and denied that Mike Arroyo had tried to intimidate Joey de Venecia into backing out of the project.

But at the end of the hearing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said Abelos had arranged and attended a meeting with ZTE officials at the Teves residence last year.

Teves also said that early this year Mendoza had called him to a meeting with ZTE officials at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, where Abalos was also present.

"From the conflicting testimonies of Teves and Mendoza, it appears that cracks within the Cabinet are showing," said Pangilinan.

Importance of inquiry

ZTE's Xue said the firm was awaiting the next Senate hearings.

Asked what ZTE would do if the hearings did not push through because of the suspension of the contract, Xue responded by saying that the firm regarded the continuation of the investigation important.

"[A continuation] would allow the Senate to consider more information that it was not able to peruse because of the lack of time during the [previous hearings]," he said.

The NBN project involves the setting up of a state-of-the-art communications system that would interconnect all government agencies, down to the poorest municipalities. Through better communications, the government hopes to improve its delivery of services to the people.

ZTE issued a statement last week saying it had won the NBN project "fair

"ZTE has completed numerous bigger projects around the world," Xue said in the statement.

ZTE: Truth doesn't reach public

He added: "We have proposed the best price, financing and technical proposal, and we are confident of beating all our competitors, so there is absolutely no need to bribe anybody to get the project.

"For so long, we keep trying to let the public know the facts about NBN and ZTE. We feel frustrated that even when we talked, the truth still cannot reach the public.

"Ail our voices were covered by more eye-attracting stories full of misleading information."

Xue also said ZTE was waiting for an opportunity to defend the project at the proper forum, on the basis of facts, figures and evidence. With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Norman Bordadora and Ronnel W. Domingo

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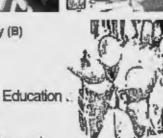


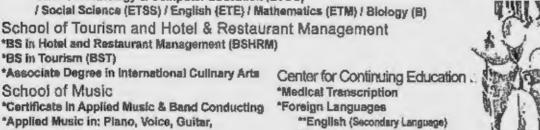


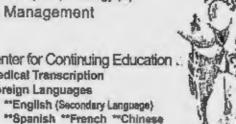
















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Soldiers turn air base

According to Maj. Gen. Fernando Manalo, commander of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC), crops had been ordered planted in a section of the air base that is being converted to agricultural use.

Under the program, the Armed Forces will provide the land, manpower and equipment while the Department of Agriculture will lend its expertise to turn soldiers into tillers.

DND-DA project

"We are going to convert vacant spaces to productive use. This is part of an agricultural project of Malacañang. There was an agreement between the DND [Department of National Defense] and the DA in 2001 so that all camps, all vacant spaces in bases will be converted to productive use," Manalo said.

He said the geographical location and rich soil of Fernando Air Base, considered the Air Force's "summer capital," make it ideal for growing marketable crops.

"At an elevation of 1,220 meters above sea level, the weather here is almost similar to Tagaytay," said Manalo.

"In farming, you need rich soil. We passed the soil test a month ago, and our land is good for growing any crops," said Col. Jesus Sampol, commander of the 550th Air Base Group, which makes him "mayor" of the camp.

Between 150 and 180 hectares of idle space inside the air base is being developed into agricultural land.

Papaya plantation

The project kicked off a month ago with the planting of high-quality "Sinta" papaya seedlings, a sweet variety of the fruit.

"There are five hectares being developed into a papaya plantation. What we want to do is make Pernando Air Base the source of produce supply for the whole of Batangas, and serve as a model agricultural lot and also a laboratory for [the cultivation of] different crops," chid Maj. Gerardo Zamudio

Jr., the base's chief information officer.

The 400 seedlings planted on Aug. 20 are expected to bear between seven to eight Sinta papayas each, 245 days from the sowing date, Sampol said.

Other crops currently being grown on military land are upland kangkong, string beans, eggplant, green and red bell peppers and tomatoes.

Sustained effort

"We are planting but at the same time, we can say we are still in the experimental stage. After we find which plants are really the best suited for the climate and soil, then we will enhance the planting of those," Sampol said.

"It will be a sustained effort. We will be embarking on procuring farm implements and other farm equipment to harness our resources," he said.

The fruits and vegetables grown at Fernando Air Base will be distributed to markets in Batangas, where officials see a ready consumer base.

The produce will also be sold to military personnel and dependents as well as residents inside the base, said Sampol.

To lower prices

According to Manalo, the hope is that the base's produce will drive down vegetable prices in the Batangas markets as there would be no need to source supplies from Baguio City.

"We've conducted a study that some vegetables normally grown in Baguio City can be grown here. We are now cultivating those so we can reduce the cost of veggies in the area," he said.

Sampol said tending the base's farm would become part of the regular duties of

Pernando Air Base's 980 airmen. "The full command will participate. This will be beneficial for everybody. Aside from enhancing our cooperation, camaraderie, teamwork and coordination, it is also a wholesome activity, most especially for our airmen, instead of indulging in other activities which are not productive." he said.

Senators vow another easy sail for cheap medicine bill

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SENATE HAS VOWED TO PASS A BILL that aims to bring down the cost of medicine before it adjourns on Oct. 13 for a three-week break.

In a caucus earlier this week, the senators agreed to fast-track deliberations on the cheaper medicines bill and 14 other measures that the Sanate had already passed in the 13th Congress.

The measures, however, were not enacted either because the House of Representatives failed to pass its version of the measures as in the case of the cheaper medicines bill, or it did not ratify the final bicameral version.

Since they were not enacted into law, the bills had to be refiled in the 14th Congress and undergo the legislative process all over again.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that during the caucus the senators agreed to wrap up the committee hearings on the bills and to submit the committee report for plenary deliberation within the next two weeks.

The respective committee chairs will sponsor the bills on the floor for debate and final amendments before they are passed on third and final reading and referred to the House.

"By and large the previous committee report (in the 13th Congress) will be adopted. If there are any minor amendments, hindi na lalayo (they would not digress much)," Pangilinan said.

During the 13th Congress, the Senate unanimously passed a bill that lowers the prices of medicine by allowing the parallel importation of affordable medicine, and by revising the Intellectual Property Code to ease the stranglehold of multinational companies on drug patents.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the committee on trade and commerce and principal author of the bill, refiled the Senate's version of the bill.

Senate President Manuel Villar, on the other hand, had introduced a bill similar to the House version, which aims to lower the price of medicine by setting up a price regulatory board consisting of representatives from the government, drug companies and the health sector.

More oil firms hike fuel prices

THREE MORE OIL FIRMS JACKED UP THE pump prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter yesterday as world oil prices continued to escalate.

Total (Philippines) Corp. increased prices at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m.

Unioi) Petroleum Philippines Inc. will hike prices of the same products by the same level at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Petron Corp., Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Crop. had earlier announced their respective price adjustments.

The price increases, the first since July, were spurred by high oil prices in the world market.

According to industry data, the price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude had escalated to an average of \$72.32 a barrel in the first 20 days of September.

World crude oil prices breached the \$80a-barrel mark last week when power outages resulting from the entry of Hurricane "Humberto" in the area around the Texas-Louisiana border forced the temporary shurdown of three oil refineries there.

The advent of the winter season in the western hemisphere is also expected to increase the prices of diesel, which is commonly used as hearing oil.

The latest price increase brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P39.57 and P42.27 a liter, diesel to between P33.10 and P35.62 a liter and kerosene to between P36.65 and P40.80 a liter.

Abigail L. Ho



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was diagnosed with peripheral nerve

sheath cancer in 2000, said of her weekly well-wishers. But perhaps more importantly, such vis-

its assure her anxious family that they are not alone in that small, one-story apartment in Bayanan, Muntinlupa City, waiting for the inevitable.

Before leaving, the two women "pray over" Lyn, her bed now moved to the living area, which provides better ventilation and the quickest dash to the front door in case

of an emergency. Heavy oxygen ranks and a small table for her medicines are within her reach.

"Di ko alam kung saan kami pupulutin kung wala sila (1 don't know where we would be without them)," said the lounge singer, whose condition had long forced her son and daughter, now both in their 20s, to quit school and look for work.

Kalalo and Allado, who both be-



HOLISTIC APPROACH: Volunteers from the Ayala Alabang hospice foundation make home visitations to provide patients medicine, equipment and counsel, listen to their concerns and pray over them.

holistic, preferably home-based ser-

vices given to patients for whom a

When nothing else can be done

al Hospice Council of the Philip-

The two women often make their

rounds together, sometimes with a

their parish in tow. They have a du-

al mission: To extend palliative care

to the patients, and prepare their

Formed in 1994, NHCP is an um-

brella group now composed of 24

member-organizations and staffed

"Hospi," as their services are

fondly referred to, is mainly about

relieving the patient of the day's

from easing the physical suffering,

it also involves taking the patient's

spirit by the hand through prayer

and counseling before it wallows in

Hence, Kalalo's local group, the

started entertaining dark notions of

fear, guilt or self-pity.

group of parishioners.

Home visits

families for the impending loss.

cure is no longer possible.

Managing pain

advocates of hospice care—the being "punished" by God or hound- 250 families overcome such dilemed by "bad karma," said Allado, who serves as the foundation's home care physician.

> Hospice caregivers also try to create an atmosphere where the patient and his family can resolve lingering "issues"-like marital spats, strained relations with children or siblings or disputes over property-lest these conflicts weigh heavily on the patient, Allado explained.

> The care can extend to postmortem concerns. "We talk about burial plans, wills and the care of the children," she said.

Lyn, for instance, has already prepared a set of "advanced directives" detailing how she wishes to finally go: She wants it to be in a hospital, as painless as possible-and "no more tubes."

Never-give-up attitude

Kalalo conceded that most Filipino families still unfamiliar with hospice care may tend to have a "never-give-up" attitude and view it as a form of surrender, a sign of pain and tomorrow's worries. Aside their lack of faith.

Many feel "guilty" about bringing the patient home from the hospital for good, and would rather subject him or her to further medical procedures—some quite invasive and stressful-even after being told of their futility.

"They'd rather make the patient Ayala-Alabang Hospice Care Founstay at the hospital in the belief that dation Inc., also arranges regular they are doing him a favor," she home visits by a priest and a small said. "But in fact they may be just trying to ease their own consciences Such interventions are deemed by showing that they have done evcrucial, especially if the patient has

erything possible." The foundation has helped over pice care.

mas, she reported. At present, it is attending to eight indigent patients in the Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and Las Piñas areas.

A HAND TO HOLD, sometimes that's all the patient needs to get

over her/his depression, desperation and fears.

Last year, they managed to find a donor for a hospital bed and had it delivered to the home of one of their patients, 58-year-old "Plor" of Barangay Putatan also in Muntinlu-

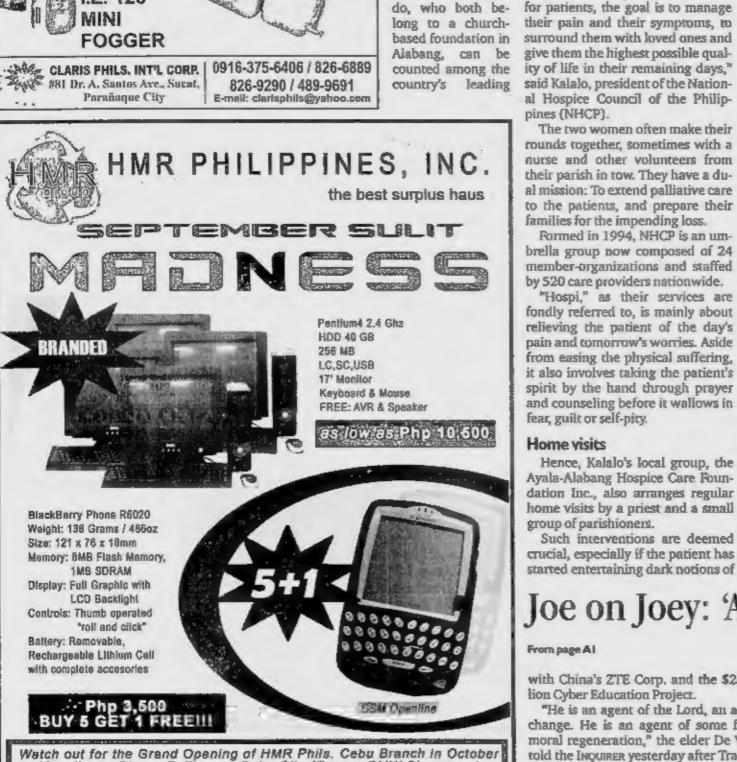
The adjustable bed allows "Flor," afflicted with advanced-stage breast cancer, to lie down in a position that eases the pain in her back and legs. Regular doses of morphine have also made all the difference for this mother of five, who manages to stand up and move around the house.

With a lot of help from 'hospi'

She can do simple chores and tend to the family's sari-sari store. A good cook and one-time businesswoman, she even has the energy to entertain neighbors who would come over to consult her about certain recipes or how to process meat into native sausages or longaniza.

Last New Year's Eve, she was able to join the revelry by marveling at the fireworks from her bedroom window, "Without 'hospi' I probably would not have gone this far," she said, recalling that a doctor at the Philippine General Hospital had warned her that she may not last till the end of 2006.

About 300 foreign guests and 1,000 local delegates are expected to attend the international conference this week to share the latest developments and practices in hos-



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Joe on Joey: 'An agent of the Lord'

From page Al

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with China's ZTE Corp. and the \$26.4-bil-

lion Cyber Education Project. "He is an agent of the Lord, an agent of

change. He is an agent of some form of moral regeneration," the elder De Venecia told the INQUIRER yesterday after Trade Secretary Peter Favila's announcement of the suspension of the deals.

It was Joey who exposed alleged anomalies in the multibillion-peso NBN deal. This included Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s alleged attempt to bribe Joey out of the project with \$10 million and the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's threat to him to "back off."

> Joey is a major stockholder in Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which came up with an unsolicited proposal for a buildoperate-transfer (BOT) scheme to undertake the NBN.

Joey said he was happy with the suspension but not totally.

"Why don't they just cancel the contract altogether? It is quite anomalous," he said. "Suspending it is like suspending classes. It appears they just want to ride out the political storm."

Joey added he was happy that his "crusade against corruption" had resulted in the contract's suspension.

"But it ain't over till the fat lady sings. That would be when the Supreme Court decides to cancel the contract or when the govern-

ment itself does that," he said. "I still don't know what to make of it (the suspension). I have yet to talk to my lawyers on what the suspension means," Joey said.

Testimony

His testimony against Mike Arroyo and Abalos in a Senate inquiry last week created quite a stir that put the Arroyo administration and those pushing for the ZTE contract in a bad light. It also compromised the elder De Venecia's relationship with the President and his position as

"(Joey) was also for a BOT project that would entail no foreign loan, no government guarantee and no sovereign risk. We saved the country \$329 million in foreign loans," the Speaker said of his son's role in the suspension of the controversial ZTE contract.

"Our country would have received another debt burden. You remember we were in a situation like that of Argentina (in 2004 when it appeared the country would default on its foreign loan obligations)," he

Joey was actually the only BOT proponent among those who bid for the NBN project that aims to connect the national government to its offices in the regions and to local government units. The other bidders were ZTE of China and Arescom of the United States.

Thank you, Dad

"Thank you, Dad," Joey said when told what the Speaker thought of him following the indefinite suspension of the ZTE

The Speaker said he had proposed to the President, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Favila that the NBN be converted to a BOT project that would be put up for bid among ZTE, AHI and Arescom.

No longer interested

"But my son has already said he will no longer participate even if it's converted into a

BOT," De Venecia said. After Joey's testimony identifying Mike Arroyo as the "mystery man" who told him to "back off" from the deal, the Arroyo family and close allies expectedly cast doubt on Joey's credibility as a whistle-blower against corruption.

The President's son and Camarines Sur Rep. Diosdado "Dato" Macapagal-Arroyo was quoted as saying that "even his (Joey's) father doesn't believe him."

The President's daughter, Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, on the other hand, said Joey's past experience with drug abuse may have affected his mind.

He smoked pot

In an earlier interview, Joey admitted that he had smoked marijuana as a teenager studying in the United States.

I was studying in Boston... My grade point average was dropping," he said, adding that he checked into a New York institution in 1984 to seek a cure for his addiction.

Joey said that after his success with various business ventures, he brought in experts against drug addiction to help

Filipinos kick the habit. "People make mistakes. The important thing is that you correer them," he said.



By Alcuin Papa

PHILIPPINE

National Police said

yesterday it had be-

gun identifying po-

tential "hot spots" in

the coming baran-

Police Director Wil-

fredo Garcia, Direc-

torate for Operations

chief, said the PNP

was looking at which

of the country's more

erupt in violence dur-

He said places where violence broke

out in last May's na-

tional elections were

likely to be included

like Abra, Nueva

Ecija and Maguin-

danao are likely candidates for the

list," Garcia told the

In what may be a

portent of things to

come, four baran-

gay officials were

"We are preparing our police forces to address

barangay elections.

We have a lot of plans," PNP Director

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Oscar

attacked in July.

"Based on historical events, places

ing the Oct. 29 polls.

40,000

might

gay elections.

than

barangays

in the list.

INQUIRER.

General

Calderon said.

lated violence.

"The October elec-

tions are our next

major activity. We are

coordinating with the

Comelec (Commis-

sion on Elections) so

the PNP can provide the appropriate assis-

spokesperson Chief

Supt. Samuel Pagdi-

Friday the memoran-

dum directing all

commanders to iden-

tify the barangays

with a history of elec-

Garcia issued on

tance,"

said PNP

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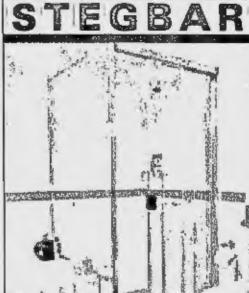
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The commanders

were also directed

to identify the can-

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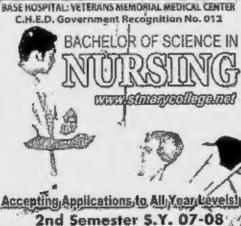
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be hot spots.

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guniang Kabataan to launch "preemp-

(youth council) elec-

tions to stay calm and

to barangay captains

and other candi-

dates not to be tem-

peramental in this

elections," Calderon

said in Filipino. "Let

the people decide

who they would vote

for. Whoever wins

has the mandate. Let

us have peaceful

Calderon ordered

"We are appealing

avoid violence.

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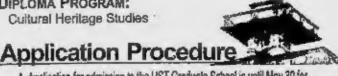
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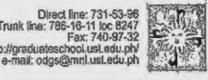
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'Children' build 'Habitat' for Bicol storm victims By Jaymee T. Gamilland Dational (CD. a pontrofit orwania van of Mahine in the Color o

By Jaymee T, Gamil and Ephralm Aguilar Inquirer Southern Luzon

DARAGA, ALBAY—A HUNDRED families from Barangay Busay here who lost their homes and loved ones to mudslides triggered by typhoon "Reming" last year have been given a new lease on life through a free permanent housing project of Children Inter-

zation that caters to the needs of impoverished children in 11 countries.

13,071-square-meter housing site located in the nearby upland village of Pandan was aptly christened "Mabuhay Village" during groundbreaking ceremonies held Friday.

As Mabuhay Village was being unveiled, the Bicol Express CaraPhilippines (HFHP) was leaving Manila to arrive in Albay on Saturday to jump-start the building of some 2,000 houses for Bicol disaster refugees still living in tents and shanties.

P60M for houses

Albert Jugo, HFHP president, said they will spend around P60 million to build houses for Bicol

zation Compassion Internation-

So far, they have helped build 40 schools, mostly in Sorsogon province, and repair more than 1,500 houses.

He said the use of modern technology made HFHP distinct as a development organization that builds decent, durable yet affordable houses for the needy.

> The houses are given for free in disaster response.

Despite the incessant rains, some 600 volunteers wearing yellow hard hats rolled their sleeves at the Anislag resettlement site here to start building the and foundations steel frame of houses worth P70,000 each.

'Hope is not lost'

surviving "The families feel as though they have been lifted up and told to continue living. As long as they are alive, hope is not lost," said Al Abainza, director of Child Sponsorship Community Development Inc., the operating agency of CI in Legazpi City.

A total of 101 typhoon-resistant housing units are slated to be built, with P253,000 allocated for each house.

Each unit, which will occupy a 63-sq m lot, will consist of a 30-sq m concrete house with two bedrooms, a living area and a bathroom, with running water and electricity.

The village will also have a road netwith work, streets to be named after values the restored community it is hoped would exhibit, such as "Maginhawa" (Comfortable), "Makadiyos" (God-loving), boot" (Kind), "Magalang" (Respectful), "Mahigos" working), "Maminomootan" (Loving).



THE HEAVY rains did not deter Australian volunteer Aimee Mcveigh. 26, and about 600 others from building houses for typhoon victims at the Anisiag Resettlement site in Daraga, Albay, during the Bicol Express Build Caravan of Habitat for Humanity Philippines.

NINO JESUS ORBETĄ INQUIRER SCOTHERN LUZON

has been identified by the regional Mining and Geosciences Bureau as a hazard-free zone.

Sweat equity

"In exchange for the houses, we only ask beneficiary families to put in 500 hours of 'sweat equity' during the construction of their new homes," Abainza said.

The first 57 houses are now being constructed, with at least 20 units expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Michael Loterina, a Busay evacuee and one of the beneficiaries of the Pandan housing project, was grateful for the pro-

"Not only are our children provided safe shelter, they are also given an environment free from health hazards and bad influences," he

Busay Barangay Captain Amado Lorejo said there were still 276 families from their village in need of permanent housing.

Lorejo was optimistic that The housing area those still residing in temporary

shelters would not be left behind. The glee on the face of Glenda Montas, 38, of Barangay Bañag could not be hidden as she signed up as one of the volunteer builders of the house that would become the permanent home for

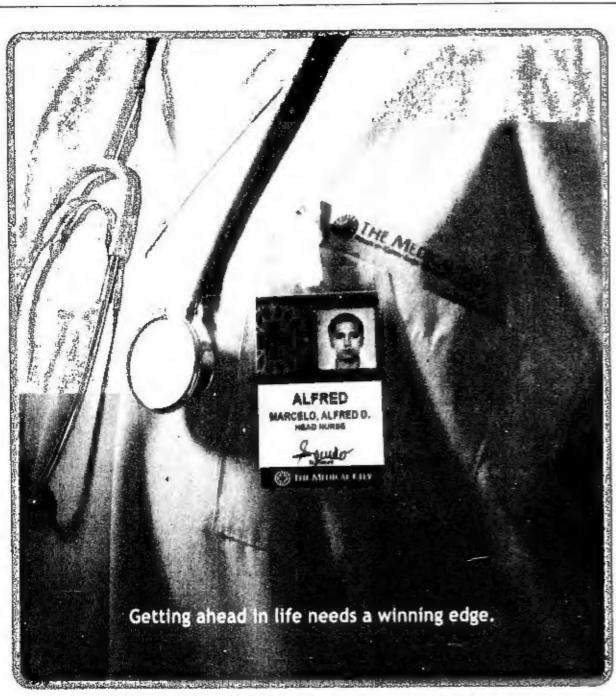
her family in Barangay Anislag. Montas lost her house, livestock, store and belongings to the flashfloods. A widow, she managed to carry her four children to a church.

Transforming lives

At least 168,000 houses were destroyed and 255,000 damaged by supertyphoon Reming, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

Former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, HITHP cochair and one of the pioneers of the caravan, said the project was conceptualized to speed up the construction of houses for the thousands rendered homeless by

Moran added that building houses was an entry point to transform lives in a community.



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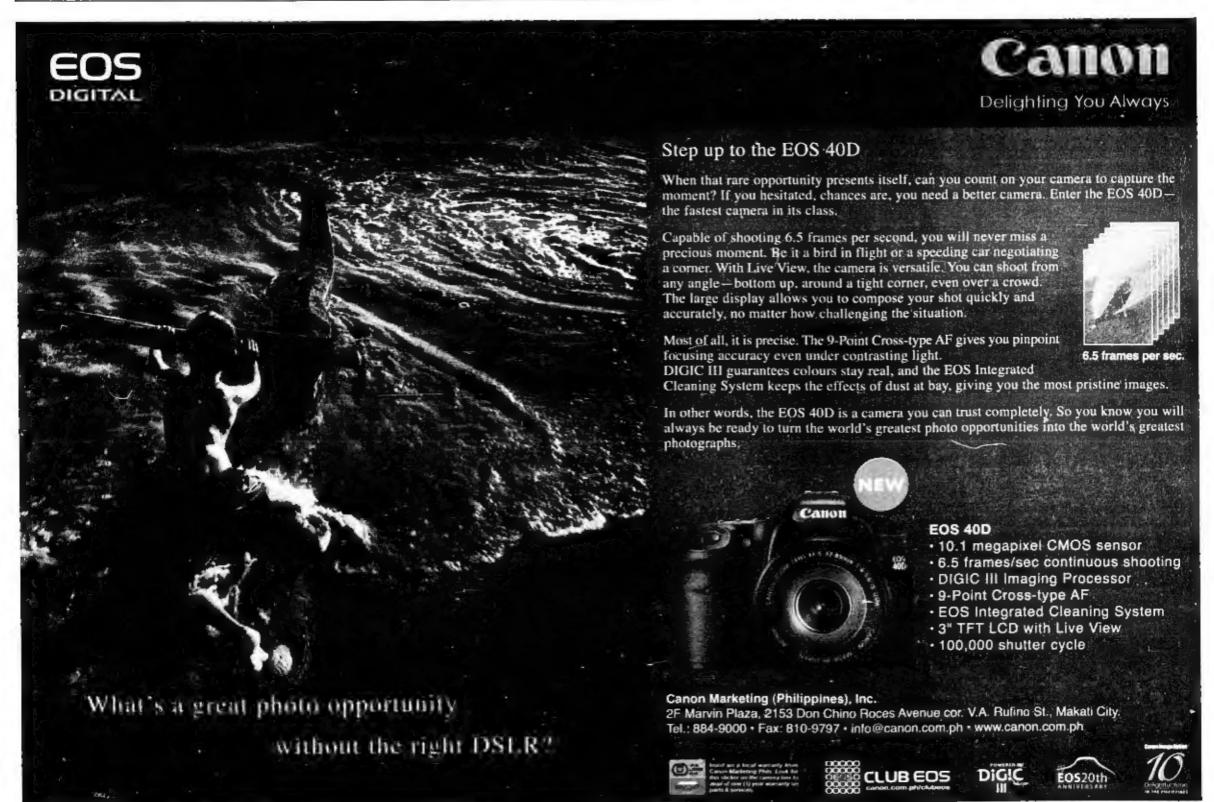


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LBP employees sue union execs

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 23, 2007 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Crime of the oppressors. Hear this, you who trample on the needy to do away with the weak of the land. You who say, "When will the new moon or the sabbath feast be over that we may open the store and sell our grain? Let us lower the measure and raise the price; let us cheat and tamper with the scales, and even sell the refuse with the whole grain. We will buy up the poor for money and the needy for a pair of sandals."

Yahweh, the pride of Jacob, has sworn by himself, "I shall never forget their deeds."

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Prayers for all. Pirst of all I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for rulers of states and all in authority, that we may enjoy a quiet and peaceful life in godliness and respect. This is good and pleases God. For he wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. As there is one God, there is one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave his life for the redemption of all. This is the testimony, given in its proper time, and of this, God has made me apostle and herald. I am not lying, I am telling the truth: He made me teacher of the nations regarding faith and truth.

I want the men in every place to lift pure hands in prayer to heaven without anger and dissension.

Luke 16:1-13 Gospel: The astute steward.

Jesus told his disciples, "There was a rich man whose steward was reported to him for fraudulent service. He summoned the sreward and asked him: 'What is this I hear about you? I want you to render an account of your service for it is about to be terminated.'

"The steward thought to himself: 'What am I to do now? My master will surely dismiss me. I am not strong enough to do hard work, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do: I must make sure that when I am dismissed, there will be some people to welcome me into their house.'

"So he called his master's debtors one by one. He asked the first who came: 'How much do you owe my master?' The reply was: 'A hundred jars of oil.' The steward said: 'Here is your bill. Sit down quickly and write there fifty.' To the secand he put the same question: 'How much do you owe?' The answer was: 'A thousand measures of wheat.' Then he said: 'Take your bill and write eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the people of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the people of light. And so I rell you: Use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, these people may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in slight matters will also be dishonest in greater ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who could entrust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with things which are not really yours, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he does not like the one and is fond of the other, or he regards one highly and the other with contempt. You cannot give yourself both to God and to Money." Commentary

Amos excoriates the people who destroy the poor and at the same time practice injustice/greed to make a profit, sell the laborer short, endanger peoples' lives, and make people no more than indentured servants. Even at worship all they think about is how to make more money in unjust ways. God will never forget a single thing they have done to the poorest and the least. (We are among the richest nations of the earth, by far, and the least generous in giving even when disaster strikes—what does our God see us doing?)

These readings declare that we are Christian but that we live in a world that is not and we must together reveal our being Christian in our words/deeds/action. We are not to just singly make do when our nation/country defies God and practices what God finds abhorrent in regard to economic justice, the basic necessities of life for all, and life itself with human dignity.

Jesus tells the story of a manager who cheats his master, and at the same time, ingratiates himself with his master's customers/debtors. He is going to be dismissed (in his greed, he overstepped the profit he took-more than his master's share). So he brings in each of the debtors and substantially drops what they owe (you can see how much he was raking in). Thus he makes friends who will provide for him when he is out of a job. The master recognizes his astuteness and praises him. And us-what have we done with what our God has shared with us? Do we make a profit on the side for ourselves? Can we be trusted with the treasures of God-the poor, the little ones, the crucified ones, those who are the presence of God among

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SOME 40 EMPLOYEES OF THE Dar-Arizabal, Rafael Capaque, Land Bank of the Philippines have filed administrative and criminal charges with the Ombudsman against the Landbank **Employees Association national** executive board (LBPEA-NEB).

The charges involve the P336million contract awarded to Maxicare Healthcare Corp. for medical coverage without a public bidding, the employees' lawyer, Homobono A. Adaza, said.

Named respondents were Maria Lourdes Diaz-Pineda, LB-PEA-NEB national president; Marcos Rabano and Garizalde Casaul, vice presidents; Gregorio Wilson Uyonco, treasurer; Marlin Marilag, auditor; Cristina Gutierrez, secretary general and Nemesio Sumulong, Milo Satumba, Nelson Pacis, Cecile Benitez, Armel Alcantara, May

Divinagracia Platon-David, John Holgado, Rhoel Vaflor, Menandro Rillon, directors.

Adaza said the Middle Management Officers Association Inc. (MMOAI), a group of middle managers at Landbank, had opted not to sign up for the HMO coverage negotiated by LBPEA since 2005.

He said the MMOAL, with 800 members, was able to negotiate a better medical package than the one the 6,000 LBPEA members nationwide got.

The LBPEA members, he said, were not informed by the board of its transactions and were thus denied their right-under the LBPEA constitution-to know about all major financial transactions entered into by the board.



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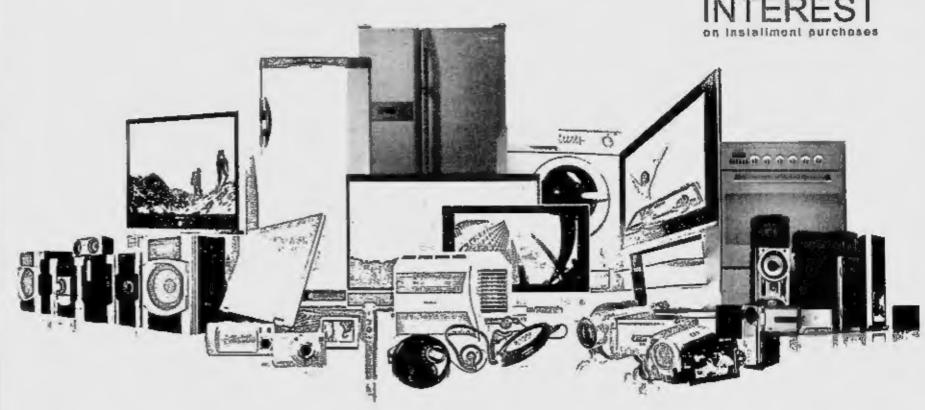


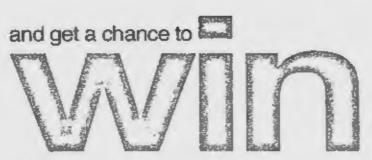


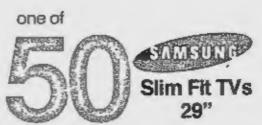


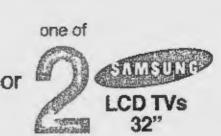
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No excuse

ASTE MAKES WASTE—AND LAYS WASTE TO THE cause of good government. It was with apparent haste that reporters were summoned yesterday to hear Trade Secretary Peter Favila and acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera announce the latest instructions from the President: Both the ZTE deal and the Cyber Education Project have been suspended.

This is like the President saying, at EDITORIAL 4:40 in the afternoon, she's issued a decree ordering the sun to set later in the

day. Of course, there will be a sunset, but only a fool would attribute it to the President. But the Palace obviously thinks there are plenty of fools. For only foolish minds would confuse the President's instructions with anything substantial. What has put the ZTE deal on hold took place prior to the President's issuing her instructions. The deal was put on hold, and remains on hold, because of a TRO issued by the Supreme Court.

Therefore it really doesn't matter at all, what the President's instructions are-even with regard to the Cyber Education Project, which we already predicted will be the next focus of congressional and public inquiry. So the obvious thing here is, this is a public relations move, but it does not affect basic government policy.

And we say haste lays waste to good government, because pressed on what government intended to do next, and why the administration suddenly reversed itself on two huge projects, the two secretaries were at a loss for words. Pavila simply stated the President told them what to say. Devanadera, obviously less politically suave, then told the media that the ZTE deal was legally defensible; Favila then told the media that the President's decision was triggered by "bad publicity"-see how it's basically a

The question then becomes, will the President's weekend attempt to take credit for an act of the Supreme Court be enough to defuse tensions? Will it be enough, for example, to maintain the brittle peace within her ruling coalition? Could it stop a potentially explosive Senate hearing on Wednesday, where former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri is due to testify under oath?

Newsbreak has put forward this version of events. The Comelec chair, its report says, approached then Neda chief Neri for "help" with the ZTE deal. Neri replied he'd take a look. Abalos, the report says, took this to mean Neri wasn't interested, so he quickly said, "There's 200 for you here." Neri asked what he meant. Abalos allegedly replied, "200 million." End of conversation.

Neri, the report says, then went to the President and told her about the offer. When Neri told her that he refused it, the President supposedly told him to forget the money but to approve the deal. Two days later, Neri was removed from the National Economic and Development

This is a version of events that requires investigation. With both Abalos and Neri scheduled to appear before the Senate, now, more than ever, the hearings should pro-

The administration pulled out all the stops to try to deflect attention and reduce the focus on the NBN controversy, using fair means and foul. Everything and everyone-from presidential daughter Evangeline "Luli" Arroyo's display of cattiness, to the AFP chief of staff's blowhard statements of a destabilization plot and how martial law is a necessary tool in government's legal arsenal, to this; the latest clumsy move by the Presidenthave been tried.

The Senate then must ponder if it wants to be an accomplice to this effort to sweep things under the rug, or if it will pull the rug out from under the feet of some extremely nervous officials. The President said the ZTE contract would be suspended-"no ifs, ands or buts." What there should be no ifs, ands or buts about is that the public interest requires a continuation of the Senate hearings.

The hearings themselves, after all, not only subject executive officials to much-needed public scrutiny, they also put the senators under the microscope. This can only be healthy for the body politic. This is what public accountability is all about. May we remind the President of one of her favorite expressions: "Let the chips fall where they

Even at the very desk of the President of the Philippines, if necessary.

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Executive clemency for Estrada

REP RUFUS RODRIGUEZ SAYS THAT WHILE Joseph Estrada will definitely reject a presidential pardon, he might consider an amnesty provided he agrees with the fine print in the proclamation. This is also subject to the two conditions required by the Constitution, to wit, that the President will agree to grant the amnesty and Congress will obediently concur.

Estrada says that a pardon is unacceptable because it will require a previous admission of guilt. He insists that he is innocent of the plunder charge against him despite the 212-page decision of the Sandiganbayan. His fear would be valid if the pardon offered him was conditional, but not if it was absolute. The absolute pardon may be forced upon a convict even if he may foolishly decline it.

A convict may want to stay as a non-paying lodger in the convenient premises of the national penitentiary, especially now that the cost of living is astronomically high like the unemployment figures. The State may refuse to accommodate him at added expense to the government, together with the other inmares entitled to official support as convicted criminals. To enjoy the privilege he seeks, he must commit another crime, confess, and be deservedly imprisoned like the other scoundrels.

Most pardons are conditional and will be automatically revoked if the grantee commits another crime during the prohibited period. Erap will certainly reject that condition because he says it will imply that he has committed the crime of plunder imputed to him by the Sandiganbayan. He says it is not he who lied at the trial but Clarissa Ocampo et al. who should be prosecuted for perjury, of which, note bene, he was acquitted by the kangaroo

If out of the goodness of her heart and with sincere gratitude for making it possible for SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

her to replace him in Malacañang, GMA should decide to grant Erap a special pardon just for him, with no strings attached, then and only then will be gladly accept her benevolence. Otherwise, begging your pardon, Madame President, your conditional pardon is rejected.

So now let us go to the other alternative, which is amnesty. Under present jurisprudence, it is like a conditional pardon in also compelling previous admission of guilt before it can be enjoyed. It was different before, when

it absolved Jose P. Laurel, Claro M. Recto and others of collaboration with the Japanese occupation government without having to admit they were guilty. Otherwise, they would have preferred to continue with their trial where

they were sure to be acquitted. That has all been changed. In Vera v. People

of the Philippines, 7 SCRA 152, and two other earlier cases, the Supreme Court had reversed the old doctrine and now requires previous admission of guilt as a condition precedent for the grant of amnesty. "Amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime," it said, "and when an accused maintains that he has not committed a crime, he cannot have any use for

Amnesty is supposed to extinguish not only the penalty as in pardon but also the offense itself, which disappears and is considered never to have existed at all. If that be so, there would

therefore be nothing for the expectant grantee to confess as obliged by the present rule. But that is a point only Erap may want to raise, not this humble observer for lack of what we lawyers call locus standi.

The other objection to amnesty is that it is usually applied to political crimes committed by many persons, like dissidents or tax evaders. It does not cover particular individuals, or only one in the Estrada case, accused of common crimes unlike those directly against the government such as coup d'etat or treason. Plunder does not necessarily have political color and may be committed by any person even if not a government functionary. It is simply theft of immense dimensions, like the close to a billion-peso loot Erap was held to

The argument that Erap should be pardoned or amnestied because he has already been amply punished with his preventive detention for more than six years is straight from the sob sisters. The sentence imposed on him is reclusion perpetua, which has a span of 40 years to be suffered not in a rest house in Tanay but in the confines of a prison cell. During his relaxed restriction, he cannot deny that he enjoyed extraordinary privileges allowed him as a former President of the Philippines still presumed to be innocent.

If Erap is so sure he can expose and demolish the errors of the Sandiganbayan on appeal, he should reject all this talk of his possible forgiveness by GMA and instead seek relief from the Supreme Court which he cannot, so far, call a kangaroo court. His trial took all of six years that consumed considerable time, effort, mutual animosity and money. All of these would be wasted with the grant to him of executive clemency that he vigorously protests he does not need because he is blameless.

Dishonesty

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A HUSBAND AND wife who were having dinner when the phone rang. The husband told the wife: "If it is for me,

say I'm not at home." The wife answered the phone and said: "He

When the husband asked why she said that, the wife replied; "It was for me."

In today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 1-13) Jesus reminds us that whoever is dishonest in small matters is also dishonest in great ones. He also reminds us that the standards of this world are not the same as God's standards: The dishonest steward was wise and prudent in the world's eyes, but still he was dishonest in God's eyes. In other words, one can get away with dishonesty in this life, and he who does so may even be considered prudent or wise; but more than worldly wis-

dom, God sees a person's purity of heart.

What caused the steward to be dishonest? He was about to be fired by his employer, so he had to make provisions for his future. Ask any corrupt government official or businessman, or any ordinary person why he/she thinks of making extra money by whatever means and most likely, the motivation is insecurity and fear of the future, be it for one's lonely retirement, or for one's family. To them we address this question: How about the fear of God?

To those who feel good and confident about their retirement from public life because they have made enough provisions for their sunset years, we ask: How about your provisions for eternity? How about your entry to heaven? Are you sure at all you will have sunset years? "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

I don't want to sound "kill joy" to those who insist on "gather(ing) hay while the sun shines." Go ahead, gather hay, but not at the

MOMENTS Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

expense of others, please! Rejoice and be glad you have earned, but in the process, did you leave others cheated or burned? Did you sacrifice your values and principles? Did you use and abuse people, especially the "little ones" in our midst? Finally, did you in the process, "gain the world and lose your soul"? Think again: Is it worth it all?

We can understand (though not condone) if, mortals as we are ("tao lang po!"), we are dishonest here and there. But, for those who make millions, even billions of "dirty money," and who go on doing so, we ask with indignation: When does it end? When is enough enough? When will you stop? When, oh when, will you ever learn?

It is disgusting to hear of public servants who rob and cheat us. What is more disgusting is that they continue to do so and get away with it, and still the majority of us seem to be saying "It's all right, as long as they do not affect our private lives." It's not all right! And, like it or not, it does affect our private lives! How many of you out there would like to join me in shouting: "Hoy public servants lang kayo! Stewards lang kayo! Who do you think you are? Affecting the lives of so many people? Stop fooling us for God's sake!"

The parable in today's Gospel ends with the master commending the dishonest steward for acting prudently, and the Lord goes on to chide us that "the children of this world are more prudent than the children of

the light." However, in real life, are we just going to let justice pass us by? Are we going to let evildoers go unpunished, and let them go on with their collecting spree? We have a government, we have a justice system in our country, don't we?

Thank God that from time to time, and at opportune times, God raises from our midst, prophets who point to the truth and disturb those who are comfortable. While many in our generation are just comforting the comfortable, I am edified to know that there are young people in our midst who give a hoot as to what happens to this country and who are serious in their crusade for change "within their lifetime." I don't know where Jose "Joey" de Venecia III is coming from, but I know where he is leading to: a clearer picture of the truth. Wanted: More Joeys out there who are not afraid to surface and take the risk.

Inviting you on Sept. 30, Sunday, eve of my birthday, for the launching of my new book "Just A Moment," a collection of daily moments from January to December; and also my CD "Oh Some Moments," a collection of stories, jokes and reflections on audio. Proceeds will help our Filipino SVD missionaries overseas. Mass is at 4 p.m. in Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City. See you!

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum with the topic "Legal Issues and Late Stage of Alzheimer's Disease." This will be held on Sept. 29, 2007, 8 a.m. to 12 nn at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr., Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 373-2262/09174167849.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that the time to stop dishonesty is now, and the person to begin honesty is

Solving the judicial vacancy problem

ONE OF THE PERENNIAL COMPLAINTS OF LITTgents is the long delay in the resolution of cases There are many causes for this malady, like the humongous number of pending cases, the dilato ry tactics of lawyers, the laziness of some judges, and yes, the large number of vacant judgeship positions. Today, I will focus on this last item, the huge judicial vacancy.

Long festering problem. The judiciary plantilla-from the highest to the lowest courts-contains 2,258 magisterial positions. For many years, however, more than one-third of these posts have remained vacant, mainly because of low pay (average salary was only about P25,000 per month) and security problems in outlying posts.

Thanks to a new law (Republic Act 9227), aponsored principally by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, the take-home compensation of magistrates in all levels had been increased 100 percent, effective Nov. 6, 2006. The pay raise takes the form of nontaxable allowances sourced from an increase in docket and similar fees. Together with other benefits, principally from the Judicial Development Fund dispensed by the chief justice, the minimum monthly pay for judges is now about P80,000.

At the beginning of 2006, there were 666 vacant judgeships that constituted 29 45 percent of the 2,258 positions. To fill up these vacancies speedily, the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC)-at my instative as then chief justice—agreed to expand its work by mounting an active search campaign to entice the best and the brightest lawyers to join the judiciary. In the past, the JBC just waited patiently for those interested to apply

The JBC's three "s" functions. But I resused that in order to fill up speedily the huge vacancy, there was need for the JBC not only to screen and select nominees, but also to search for qualified lawyers who were "shy" in filing applications. The JBC needed to conduct a massive information drive to let these lawyers know of the vacancies in their regions, the procedure for applying and the more substantial compensation available.



The four regular JBC members—Dean Amado L. Dimayuga, retired Supreme Court Justice Regino C. Hermosisima Jr., Atty. J. Conrado P. Castro and retired Sandiganbayan Justice Raoul V Victorino-crisscrossed the various regions of the country, conducting semmars and dialogues with lawyers' groups, the legal academe, local governments and non-governmental organizations. 1 asked them "to work extra hard to nominate enough candidates to enable the President to fill up some 300 vacancies and thus reduce the vacancy rate by about one-half."

To hasten nominations, the JBC worked double time in sorting, encoding and screening the applications. After the information campaign, the regular members traveled to the major cities, north and south, to conduct interviews and give psychological/psychiatric tests to applicants. With grit and doggedness, the JBC was, by the end of 2006, able to transmit to the President enough nominations to fill up 316 vacancies, thereby exceeding its self-imposed target of 300

This batch of 316 nominations—processed in a period of less than one year-is unequalled in JBC's history. To achieve that number, the council had to screen, test and interview about 10 applicants per position, or a total of 3,160 lawyers And to comply with the constitutional requirement of at least three candidates for every vacancy, it had to look for and send about 1,000 worthy

nominees to the Palace For the year 2006, however, the President is sued only 219 appointments out of the 316 submitted to her by the JBC. Thus, the actual vacancy

rate, at the end of that year, fell to only 25.2 percent. On the other hand, if al. the 316 were filled up, the vacancy rate would have dropped to

This policy of speedily filling judicial vacancies was continued in 2007 by the JBC under Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno. As of Sept. 18, 2007, the Palace had issued an additional 271 Judicial appointments thereby reducing the vacancy rate to 18.87 percent. However, there are still 47 vacancies for which the JBC has already submitted nominations. If these would be filled up on time, the vacancy rate would drop to an all-time low of 16.78 percent, Parenthetically, may I add that new vacancies were created in 2007, thereby necessitating more nominations and appointments

President must follow the Constitution, At this point, it is quite obvious that only the continuing grit of the JBC and the timely issuance of appointments by the Office of the President can solve the huge judicial vacancy rate, and trigger the consequential hastening of hitgations. The Constitution commands that "(f)or the lower courts, the President shall issue the appointments within nanety days from the submission of the list." In the case of Supreme Court, the 90-day period is to be reckoned from the "occurrence" of the vacancy,

However, the records clearly show that many of the judicial appointments were issued beyond the period mandated by the Constitution. The Office of the President tried to circumvent the Constitution by antedating the appointment papers to (all within the 90-day prescription.

With due respect, this circumvention is untenable To stress, the Charter says, "The President shall issue (not shall date) the appointments within ninery days from the submission of the list." Purthermore, the Constitution obviously wants judicial vacancies filled up speedily. Antedating clearly frustrates this noble intent

Comments are welcome at chieffutticepanganiban@notmail.com

Assuming that

throughout

achools,

THE ABC'S OF ZTE ARE NOW COMMON COFFEE-SHOP conversation. But the ZTE contract is not the only multibillion-peso government initiative under the media spotlight. Last Monday, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus defended the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project (CEP) of the Department of Education

Using sateilites, the CEP will beam educational services to 90 percent of public

elementary and sec-REBEL country or 37,794 linking them to a nationwide network. The sate...ite network will provide 12 video

WITHOUT Patricia Evangelista

channels, wireless wide area networking, local area networking and wireless Internet connection. It will be financed through a P22.77-billion loan from China, amounting to 86 percent of the project. The remaining P3.71 billion, or 14 percent, will be financed by the Philippine government.

Lapus claimed that all fears over the CEP project are due to controverses surrounding the \$329-million national broadband network deal of the Philippine government and the Chinese government-owned ZTE Corp. Lapus said the CEP had not been finalized.

The CEP is different, has nothing to do with the ZTE, he said. The only similarity is that the deal is similar to the ZTE package, and that it's being brokered with China. On Tuesday, Trade Secretary Peter Pavila said that he doesn't understand the uproar over both the NBN and CEP deals. After all, "no contract" existed.

Pavila called the signed agreement between China and the Philippines a Memorandum of Understanding, "Memorandum of understanding, or misunderstanding, it depends on how you look at it. Meaning, with the Chinese and other nationalities, you can lose things in translation," the charming secretary even tried his hand at humor, "So my joke there is either an MOU or a MOMU," he said, meaning "ghost" in Filipino.

The contract, or memorandum of agreement, or memorandum of understanding, or whatever Pavila and Sergio Apostol, President Macapagal-Arroyo's legal adviser, would have it called, did pull a Casper on April 21. Copies of the \$329-million ZTE and \$460-million CEP contracts were reportedly stolen in Boso, China, the day they were signed.

"Somebody has storen it--(all) two copies," said Apostol. "So there's no contract. We don't know what kind of contract it is." The deal, he said, did not pass through Malacafiang be-

The public, naturally, only has his word for it, and there is no Jose 'Joey" de Venecia III to point fingers and claim bribery, corruption and overpricing. The gentlemen defending the CEP appear to believe that for as long as no contract "exists," CEP is a non-issue

Let us assume, for argument's sake, that the entire deal, as Secretary Lapus claimed, is above board and legal. Let us ussume that there is no contract yet. And let us assume, although it flies in the face of current realities, that the gentlemen involved are men of unimpeachable character, and that all they care about, in their heart of hearts, are the best interests of the Filipino people. The question that must be asked is the same question that Sen. Mar Roxas asked of the ZTE deal Is the Cyber Education Project necessary?

That education must be dealt with, and immediately, is not the debate. The CEP cannot be equated to education, it is a possible solution, and as such must respond to existing

Let us concede that the problem exists. A Trends in International Mathematics and Science study ranks Filipino students at 41st in a field of 45 in Science, and 42nd in Math. A recent Unesco report ranked the Philippines 74th in terms of the Education Development Index, far below Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China. Both the National Elementary Achievement Test and National Secondary Achievement Test demonstrate how students could correctly answer less than

50 percent of exam questions Pifteen years ago, a congressional commission identified the need to stress basic public education, because it was the only formal schooling the majority of Pilipinos were able to get. As of this year, there is a shortage of some 41,000 class. rooms, requiring roughly P16 billion. That does not include the salaries of teachers; neither does it include the necessary teacher training in a country where even teachers admit they feel they are unable to teach basic English to students. At the moment, the student-teacher ratio is the worst in the region. The Phil ppines has an average class size of 43.9 students in public elementary schools, and 56.1 in public high schools.

The CEP proposes to deliver education through the sophisticated mechanisms of satellites, television and computers to Plipino classrooms. Without the classrooms, without the teachers, without the electric sockets to plug in the thousands of computers and relevisions that have to be bought on taxpayers' money, the CEP proposal appears to be crafted for

an entirely different country. At the moment, 51 percent of Flipmos have had only elementary education. Only 14.3 percent of rural poor Filipinos graduate from high school or have higher educational attainment. Even with multi-sternt and bilateral institutions pouring in millions into textbook development, stories of defective and substandard textbooks have made it into the news. It is patently obvious that reforms are necessary in many areas of public education-and investment in satellite technology is not only unsuited to the problem, it will be done at the expense of thousands of students possibly going to new classrooms. Not to mention the effectiveness of the program—how can computers and televisions be effective teachers to a class of 50, especially if real teachers are either unable or not present to apply television

lessons to the individual difficulties of students? Let us assume that the current administration sincerely wants to fulful its constitutional duty to provide quality education. Let us assume that this deal, proposal, contract, memorandum, or whatever they want to call it, is not just another evenue for corruption. Let us assume a revolutionary new concept: that this government is in service of the Filipino. Granting all these assumptions, given the situation, it appears that the men who put together the CEP are, scientifically speaking, idiots.

And these are the men who will decide on the education of the next generation of Filipinos.

Erratum

The second sentence of the first paragraph in Randy David's Sept. 22 column titled "Martial law revisited" originally read: "Proclamation 1081 ushered ..." After scanning Google, the Opinion desk replaced "Proclamation" with "Presidential Decree."

*(A) common mistake. Proclamation 1081 was the source and mother of all PDs. It wasn't itself a presidential decree. In fact, PD 1 was the reorganization of the whole government following the promulgation of Proclamation 1081. We can't allow Google to replace memory," says Professor David. Point well taken. Our apologies.—Ed.

Protecting, celebrating nature

A BIOTECH SOLUTION TO BRING DOWN THE severs of toxic by-products of the tanning process employed by the leather industry in Bulacan. Biofertilizer, making use of vermicompost, marketed in tublet form. A student-initiated and organized project to raise eco-awareness among the stakeholders on the different UP campuses in time for the observance of UP's centenn al next year. A different and "fun" way to raise awareness among students about solid waste management through the use of waste bins in the guise of bas-

These are the award-winning projects, among the 13 finalists, submitted as part of the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys competition held annually by Bayer, in conjunction with the UN Environmental Program, in various countries around the world. The four Filipino winners will be joining their counterparts from Asia, Latin America and Africa on a trip to Germany where they will not only learn about Bayer's and the German government's environment-friendly policies and practices, but also share among themselves their thoughts and plans for the greening of the planet

During the final judging last Thursday, the judges were impressed not only by the young people's ability to articulate and defend their projects, but even more, by the creativity they employed in planning their projects, and by their efforts at organizing coalitions and raising funds to get them going. Heading the board of judges was Odette Alcantara of the Mother Earth Movement, with lawyer Jonas Leones of the Environment Management Bureau, Dr. Rey Esquerra of the Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Olivia Castillo of the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, and this

The final judging followed a months-long search for entrants, who were required to submit not just their plans and ideas, but also regular updates on the progress they were making, as well as the results they were getting, All 13 finalists had hurdled regional screenings and then took part in an "eco-camp" (which Bayer hosts annually) held this year in Pagudpud, Bocos Norte.

AT LARGE Rina Jimenez-David

DURING THE awards rites, Bayer justifiably took pride in the accomplishments of BYEE alumni, some of whom had gone on to play important roles in International environmental conferences and organizations. Other alumni have also continued their early exposure to environmental work, as scientists, scholars, lawyers and local leaders.

Clearly, the environment for them was not just an excuse to win a competition or gain some recognition, but a lifetime commitment, a cause they have decided to pursue beyond the immediare rewards. And thank goodness, because the abysmal state of the environment and the threats to it have grown beyond the ability of a single entity or even government, to address.

Congratulations, then, to all 13 finalists, most of whom were students of colleges and universities outside of Metro Manula, especially the four who made the grade for the Germany trip, Clarisse Quimio, Jan Dacumos, Ramon Lorenzo Guinto and Francis Richard Villar.

NATURE, trees in particular, emerged as the theme. of the joint exhibit of painter Del Garcia and sculptor/carver Benny Pagayon. With the double title "Honest Expressions/Emerging Imagery," the exhibit, which runs antil Oct. 13 at Le Soufflé in The Fort, celebrated nature-its imagery, beauty and the message it holds for all who behold it

My husband and I took particular joy and pride in being present at the exhibit opening as Del and his wife Becky have been our friends for many years. Del was with Pie at the Art and Audio-Visua. Section of the Corporate Affairs Office of San Miguel Corp. and upon leaving the corporate setting returned to

what he calls his "first love," painting

Indeed, many of the pieces on exhibit looked firmiliar, and we recognized them as scenes we glimpse in the as yet untained garden of our home in Alfonso, Cavite near Tagaytay. We got quite a kick spotting the trees in our lot, as well as the landscape of adjacent lots. Clearly, Del was doing more than just taking in the cool air during his many vision throughout the phases of the house's construction

Del calls his painterly expressions "honest" because, like the Impressionists he emulates, he beheves in "capturing reality and depicting what (one) sees at a given moment," It's no small accomplishment to take such everyday items like trees, branches, roots, and even seascapes and turn them into images that delight and leave dis-

I MADE a faux pas when I first spotted Benny's pieces, asking if they were sculptural pieces or found objects. It turns out they're both, To fully appreciate the artist's work, though, one needs to pick up the tree roots, branches or bark and examine them carefully. For on these wood pieces are carved images that Benny alone discerned, enhanced by strokes of a knife or whatever tool he had in hand, including a screwdriver.

Benny found his calling when, handling some driftwood and pieces of dead uprooted trees, he "saw" images in the whoris and knots, rings and patterns and decided to outline them, adding features like eyes, feathers or limbs when necessary.

To experience Benny's artworks, then, is to engage in an intimate, almost archeological, viewing. Holding the pieces up close, one needs to search for the images "emerging" from the surrounding wood, an experience full of surprise and discovery, and sometimes,

even the thrill of exploration. He may be working with "dead" wood, but Benny proves that with the mind's eye fully opened to possibilities, it is possible to give new life even to pieces we would otherwise discard and dismuss as mere junk, waste material.

Russia and the Kosovo Card

TBILISI-LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP IS AS SOUND a principle in foreign policy as it is in life. But again, the Bush administration is preparing to leap into the unknown. Even though lack of foresight is universally viewed as a leading cause of its Iraq debacle, the United States (with probable British backing) is now preparing to recognize Kosovo's independence unilaterally.

Kosovo has been administered since 1999 by a United Nations mission, although it remains formally a part of Serbia. But, with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority demanding its own state, and with Russia refusing to recognize UN mediator Martti Ahtisaari's plan for conditional independence, the United States is preparing to go it alone, Albania or a separate state), the United States plans to act without the UN's blessing, arguing that only an independent Kosovo will bring stability to the Western Balkans

That argument is debatable—and the record of the Kosovar government suggests that it is wrong. But the US position is unambiguously misguided in not foreseeing that the "Kosovo precedent" will incite instability-and, potentially, even violence

Why the rush to give Kosovo independence? Many serious disputes have gone unresolved for decades. The Kashmir question has largered since 1947, the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus since 1974 and Israel's occupation of the West Bank since 1967. Yet no one is suggesting that unilateral solutions be imposed in these potential flashpoints.

Nevertheless, the United States and most European Union members argue that Kosovo's situation is sur generis and will set no legally binding international precedent. But Russia sees things very differently. Indeed, it may seek to use this precedent to reestablish its authority over the nations and territories that were once part of the Soviet Union

Spain and Cyprus, faced with secessionistminded regions, are worried by any possible precedent. Romania fears the fatiout from Kosovo's unhaterally gaining independence on neighboring Moldova—Russia may undaterally recognize the breakaway Moldovan territory of Trans-

WORLD Charles Tannock

dnistria, which Russian troops and criminal gangs have been propping up for 16 years.

Ukraine—the great prize in Russia's bid to recapture its former sphere of influence—is also deeply arutious. It fears Russia will encourage separatist tendencies in Crimea where the ethnic Russian popmation forms a majority. (Crimea was ceded to Ukraine by Nikita Khrashchev only in 1954), Russia may decide to abuse the Kosovo precedent further to divide Ukraine's population-between Russian speakers and Ukramian speakers.

But the biggest risks posed by a unilateral recognition of Kosovo's independence are in the South Caucasus, a region that abuts the tinderbox of today's Middle East. Here, there is a real danger that Russia may recognize breakaway regions and back them more strongly than it does now

Even before Viadunir Putin became Russia's president, the Kremlin was making mischief in Georgia, issuing Russian passports to citizens of Abkhazia (the largest breakaway region) and pouring money into its economy. Russia's supposed "peacekeeping troops" in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Georgia's other secession-manded region, have in fact protected their rebel governments. Russia has also been enforcing a complete trade embargo on Georgia in the hope of weakening the resolve of its pro-Western president, Mikhail Saakashvili

Should Russia recognize Abkhazia's independence, Saakashvili might be tempted to respond militarily to prevent his country from unraveling. Renewed conflict in Abkhazia would not only bring the risk of open warfare with Russia, but strain relations with Armenia, as there are mound 50,000 Armenings in Abkhazia who support the breakaway government

Another risk in the South Caucasus is that Russia (with Armenian support) may recognize Nagorno-Karabakh's self-proclaimed independence from Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh, historically Armenian, endured a broody secession st war between 1988 and 1994, with 30,000 killed and 14 percent of Azerbaijan's territory occupied by Russian-backed Armenian forces

Since then, oil has fueled an Azeri military bundup. So the government in Baku is far more prepared to respond to renewed warfare than it was in the 1990s. Moreover, it has neighboring Turkey on its side. Turkey at already enforcing a punative economic embargo on Armenia, including closure of its border

Military projections by the United States have repeatedly suggested that Azerbaijan would lose such a battle, even with newly purchased equipment and Turkish military support. Armenian forces are wel. dug in and have received a significant boost from Russia's diversion of heavy weaponry from some recently closed Georgian military bases

Iran also must be factored into this equation, as it is becoming a strategic investor by building an oil refinery just across its border in Armenia, partly as a security measure in case of a US attack and partly to reheve its petrol shortages. Moreover, Iran remains euger to contain Azerbaijani revanchist claims over the large Azeri minority in northern Iran.

The conflicts in Transdustria and the South Caucasus are usually called "frozen confacts," because not much has happened since they began in the early 1990s. Any unilateral move to give Kosovo its independence is likely to "unfreeze" them—fast and bloodily. And such potential bloodshed on Russia's border may give Vladimir Putin the pretext he may desire to extend his rule. beyond its constitutionally mandated end next Project Syndicate

Charles Tannock is a member of the European Parhament, where he is spokesman on foreign affairs for the British Consen arive Ports

HALK of the I OWN





THE MORTHWEST Passage, the dreamed-of-yet historically impassable mark, me shortcut between Europe and Asia, has now fully opened up due to record shrinkage of Arctic searce. The European Space Agency released a mosaic of images, taken early September by a radar aboard its Envirsal saledite. which showed that los retreal in the Arctic had reached record levels since saleille monitoring began in 1978. The most direct route of the Northwest Passage is Indicated by the yellow line and the direct route of the Wortheast Passage, which is partially blocked. is Indicated by the blue ilne.





CE COVER IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN HAS RECEDED TO its lowest level since satellite monitoring began 30 years ago. Arctic sea ice has lost more than 1,2 million square kilometers, or the size of South Africa, over the past two years, according to the US National Snow and Ice Data Center.

The retreating ice is believed to be caused by the warming of the planet due to greenhouse gas emissions from human activity.

The rapid melting of ice threatens the livelihood of people and wildlife such as polar bears. Some four million people, including 150,000 Inuit, live in the Arctic Circle.

But the melting ice could open opportunities, including a shortcut for commercial ships between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Already, some ships have breezed through the 5,100-km Northwest Passage in weeks instead of years, ac cording to a report in the Wall Street Journal,

A thawing Arctic, however, may increase tension among five countries (Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway), which have competing claims to the North Pole. A quarter of the world's undiscovered oil and gas resources lie in the Arctic, according to the US Geological Survey.

By Jamey Keaten

ARIS—ARCTIC ICE HAS SHRUNK TO THE lowest level on record, new satellite images show, raising the possibility that the Northwest Passage that eluded famous explorers will become an open shipping lane.

The European Space Agency than expected-but ESA did not (ESA) said nearly 200 satellite photos taken this month showed Canada, Alaska and Greenland, and ice retreating to its lowest level since such images were first tak-

The waters are exposing unexplored resources, and vessels could trim thousands of kilome-Panama Canal

Summer window

The seasonal ebb and flow of national flag under the North Pole, ice levels has already opened up a slim summer window in which

some ships can pass through. Leif Toudal Pedersen of the Danish National Space Center said that Arctic ice had shrunk to some 3 million square idiometers, or 1.16 million square miles. The previous low was 4 million square kilometers, or 1.54 million square miles, in 2005.

"The strong reduction in just one year certainly raises flags that the ice (in summer) may disappear much sooner than expected," Pedersen said in an ESA statement posted on its website on Sept. 14.

Extreme drop

On average, the ice retreated by about 100,000 square kilometers-38,610 square milesper year over the last decade, "so a drop of 1 million square kilometers (390,000 square miles) in just one year is extreme," Pedersen said.

Pedersen said the extreme retreat this year suggested the passage could fully open sooner

say when that might be

A UN panel on climate change an ice-free passage along northern has predicted that polar regions could be virtually free of ice by the summer of 2070 because of rising temperatures and sea ice decline, BSA noted

Race for oil

Russia, Norway, Denmark, ters off the sea journey from Eu- Canada and the United States are rope to Asia by bypassing the among countries in a race to secure rights to the Arctic that heated up last month when Russia sent two small submarines to plant its

> A US study has suggested as much as 25 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and gas could be hidden in the area.

Environmentalists fear in creased maritime traffic and efforts to tap natural resources in the area could one day lead to oil spills and harm regional wildlife.

Symbolic

Until now, the passage has been expected to remain closed even during reduced ice cover by multiyear ice pack-sea ice that remains through one or more summers, ESA said.

Researcher Claes Ragner of Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute, which works on Arctic environmental and political issues, said that, for the time being, the new opening has only symbolic meaning for the future of sea transport.

"Routes between Scandinavia and Japan could be almost halved, and a stable and reliable route would mean a lot to certain regions," he said by phone. But even

Route could vastly trim shipping distance

Experts believe g-obal warming has melted Arctic ice, allowing the opening of the Northwest Passage sooner than expected. It could trim thousands of kilometers of shipping from Europe to Asia compared with the current route through the Panama Canal.



South Pole Source: National Oceanic and Athmosperic Administration, ESRI

if the passage is opening up and polar ice continues to melt, it will take years for such routes to be regular, he said.

"It won't be ice-free all year around and it won't be a stable route," he said, "but the fact that route all year," Ragner said, "The

greatest wish for sea transportation is streamlined and stable routes."

"Shorter transport routes means less pollution if you can ship products from A to B on the shortest the polar ice is melting away is not good for the world in that we're losing the Arctic and the animal

life there." month was not the most direct waterway, ESA said. That would be Stockholm, Sweden, contributed through northern Canada along to this report.)

the coast of Siberia, which remains

partially blocked. The opening observed this (Jamey Keaten Is an Associated Press writer. Louise Nordstrom in

Panama Canal

The 80-km long care: is a major ship passageway that traverses the isthmus of Panama in Central America and connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. More than 80,000 people were involved in the construction of the canal, one of the biggest angineering efforts In history. It is estimated that more then 30,000 lives were lost (mosily from H-Fever and mataria) in the process.

Officially opened in August 1914, construction of the canal tirst began in 1880 and was overseen by a private French firm. However, after struggling with finances and technology, the French abandoned the effort and sold their rights and equipment to the United States, which continued the construction in the early 1900s. until the canal was finally opened. about a decade later with the transit of the SS Ancon.

Today the Panama Canal remains to be a key passageway for international shipping. A ship traveling from New York to San Francisco can save more than 12,480 km using the Panama Canai instead of going around South America. The average time spent in transit from port to port is approximately 8 to 10 hours

Suez Canal

The 160-km long Suez Canal runs across the isthmus of Suez Innortheastern Egypt. The canal connects the Mediterraneen Sea and the Red Sea, and is used extensively today as the fastest way to cross from the Atlantic ocean to the indian ocean

Construction afforts for the Suez Canal began in April 1869. The canal, which was built by Frenchman Ferdinand de Lassapa was opened to traffic a decade later, in November 1869, through the afforts of thousands of Egyptian laborers. Lis estimated that more than 100,00 workers died while building the cana-

In the Philippines, the opening of the Suez Cana, contributed to the rise of the Hustrado class, as the canal out travel time to Spain and more fit pinos. Including nationa, hero Dr. Jose R zal, were able to Irave to Europe for aducation

Ideas of liberty" into the country Today, around 7.5 percent of the world's sea trade is carried via the canal in 2005, over 18 000

The opening of the canal also

facilitated the flow of "modern

vessels passed through the Suez. Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

INQGRAPHIC Emite Sambo

GMA suspends \$329-M NBN deal indefinitely

P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project, which, like the scandal-ridden ZTE deal, was also allegedly overpriced.

He and Devanadera said the suspensions were made because of the controversy surrounding the ZTE deal.

Mendoza recommended it

In a statement, Mendoza said he had recommended the suspension of the deal with ZTE to Ms Arroyo

He said he was prompted to make the recommendation in light of "persistent information" received by the Department of Transportation and Communicanons that the controversy surrounding the deal would be "exploited by enemies of the state" to "destabilize" the Arroyo administration.

(Also yesterday, Speaker Jose de Venecia claims that it the Supreme Court will rule that was he who had been asking the President to shelve the NBN deal. Story on Page A4.)

In an interview, Mendoza said it was DOTC practice to conduct risk assessments to protect vital transportation and communication facilities such as airports, seaports and communication towers

"We are prepared," he said.

Mendoza stressed that his recommendation did not mean he had changed his position that the project would "benefit our people and aid the government's efforts to push our social and economic development."

"I am happy that the President has considered my recommendation, which I made in the interest of our people," he said.

This was apparently unknown to Favila

It was President's decision

Asked at the press conference if Mendoza had agreed with the suspension, Favila said: "The President made the decision, and when the President makes the decision, no ifs, no buts."

To the question of why it was he who made the announcedered the suspension of the ment, he said he was handling the issue at the "ministerial level" with China.

> Invoking "executive privilege," Favila refused to say when the President decided to suspend the project."

Friday-night decision

But Sergio Apostol, the President's chief legal adviser, told the INQUIRER on the phone that Ms Arroyo made the decision on Friday night and told Favila to relay it to the public the following day.

Asked if the President's move would defuse the politically charged atmosphere, Apostol said "All's well that ends well."

He said it would "temper all sides—Malacañang, De Venecia and the Senate."

Asked further if the suspension was a prelude to the cancellation of the deal, Apostol said. "That's just temporary, Suppose it's valid? It will be implemented. So we will wait for the Supreme Court's decision."

Favila is 'Chinaman'

Pavila-who had described himself as the "Chinaman" responsible for taking care of the Philippines' diplomatic and economic relations with the world's fastest growing economy---was at a loss when asked whether the ZTE project would be revived or eventually canceled.

Asked what the ultimate fate of the project would be, he threw his hands up in the air and said. "I don't know how to further define what the word 'suspension' means to you."

Asked the same question, Devanadera said: "It's up to the President."

But according to a source in Malacañang, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he sacked authority the ZTE deal was effectively cancelled because it had become "too hot to handle."

Deemed a wise move

ZTE 'utterly disappointed'

last night, China's ZTE Corp

"ZTE is utterly disappointed with the press statement of Secretary Peter Favila that the Philippine government will suspend the NBN project pending investigation.

"Nonetheless, 2TE would like to make clear that it welcomes any fair investigation

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED of the NBN project and all the proposals that were submitted for it.

"ZTE is confident that the investigation will eventually clear its good name and reveal that ZTE's proposal is, in fact, superior and the most cost-efficient as well as the most advantageous to the Philippine government and, most importantly, to the Filipino people."

deemed it wise to suspend the tation of the broadband deal."

There is a pending case in the Supreme Court, an Ombudsman case versus Mendoza, legislative

and even a congressiona. Investigation. [The suspension] will, allow investigations to proceed, so that whatever will be the outcome, the executive will follow," he said

Apostol said the President could suspend the project. In the first place, he said, "the contract is not ready for implementation because there's no loan agreement; so there's no executive agreement yet."

Mendoza will follow order

He also said Mendoza would "forlow the order."

"In fact," Apostol said, "he was the one saying that there is no executive agreement yet because there is no loan agree-

Apostol said Malacañang was not worned that the suspension of the deal would damage relabons with China

"No naman China also knows that the contract can't be implemented [because there's no] executive agreement and because of the failure of the loan agreement," he said

In a text message, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said that on Ms Arroyo's instruction, Favila had conveyed to Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai "the government's Apostol said Ms Arroyo had desire to suspend the implemen-

According to Remonde, Bo "said his government understands and respects the decision of President Arroyo and will continue to support her and her programs."

China 'understands'

Pavila himself said that while the project, to be financed by a \$400-million loan from the China Export-Import Bank, was deemed "strategic importance" to RP-China relations, the Chinese officials understood Ms Arroyo's decision and agreed with it.

He said the suspension would not sour relations with China.

With the Inouteer and ABS-CBN reporters the first to catch him at the hotel lobby, Favile asked for a few minutes before making his announcement, saying he was still waiting for "one last call from Beijing."

He said he was able to get hold of a Chinese official who relayed Ms Arroyo's decision to Bo But he said he received reassuring words from Chinese officials on Friday night.

Asked what assurance he gave to the Chinese officials, Favila sa d: "An assurance arrived at by Mr Bo Xilai and I to further strengthen our busteral

"I had to do a lot of back-channeing quietly. Last night 1 received information from Beijing authorities that they will [give] continuing support and behef in President Arroyo. They would

like to continue helping her govemment. They have acceded to, or agreed to, our calls for a suspension of this project."

Not as simple as that

Asked why the project was not just cancelled altogether, Favila said: "It's not as simple as canceling something viewed ax strategically important to our bilateral relations. Here is the Chinese government which had offered to help the President... They believe in the leadership of the President... They are the ones helping us, but we created our own problem here."

Favila chided the people who had "made trouble" for the NBN

He added. "The Chinese government has given this project a high consideration... This has been strategically important in our bilatera, relations with China. In spite of this, [because of] the complaints, attacks, criticisms and controversies accompanying this broadband project, it was not as simple as a lot of people think it is.

"We probably need more time to [explain] the processes. In spite of all explanations, many sectors still need clarification, and I think it is the best thing to do, and the President gave me the instruction to suspend it."

Devanadera said the suspension was prompted by the "many commentaries from different sectors "

She said that after reviewing the processes that had led to the awarding of the contract to ZTE, her office found that "the processes undertaken by Secretary Mendoza are ... aboveboard."

'No coverup'

Pavila and Devanadera demed that the suspension was meant to cover up the controversy, or take the heat off the President's husband, or Commission on Elecnons Chair Benjamin Abalos, whom Joey de Venecia had accused of brokering the deal and attempting to bribe him.

Abalos has denied the allega-

"I find it funny to even have that conclusion," Pavila said.

Said Devanadera: "We should not say that just because the President made the decision to suspend, it is a coverup. It cannot be a coverup because we have all the institutions to ventilate these issues."

She also said there could be no coverup because the allegations of bribery had been brought before the Ombudsman. (Rep. Carlos Padilla filed a graft case against Mendoza and other officials involved in the dea..)

"As for constitutional officers. we have heard this talk that they will file an impeachment [case against Abaios]," she said

Devanadera also said Ms Arroyo's decision to suspend the ZTE deal had nothing to do with the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order on it.

"I would not want to make a connection between the President's decision and the developments in Congress or the Senate or in the Supreme Court, [Ms Arroyo] has an appreciation of many things affecting this fasue," Devanadera said

She said the case in the high court would continue because "it has a life of its own "

Senate probe

As for the Senate mounty, Devanadera expressed her belief that there was no more need for it. (See related story on Page A1.)

"It's not our call, it's their call," she said

But she added: "I don't know, because from the discussions [inthe Senate] last week, during the seven-hour hearing, everything was explained. What more can they ask when everything has been answered and explained? It's my personal opinion that everything has been covered "

Said Pavila: "I will respect what the Senate will do," With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Tony S. Bergonia

School rises from the ashes of Pinatubo

mained for months. Classes shut

down most days. Riots between fraternities and gangs were not unusual. Drug

pushers and dealers lurked Because teachers were often nowhere to be found, the quality of education deteriorated

"Morale was low. Most students could not read or could not comprehend what they were reading," says Macaspac.

Lighting a candle

Happily, all those things are now distant memories.

In the five years since she took the helm, Macaspac has worked miracles at the school that has become pretty much like the Sphinx risen from the ashes.

Instead of cursing the darkness, Macaspac lit a candle.

She had been aware of all the bad things happening at PHS. She had been a teacher there for nine years. She had left to become regional to supervisor in the Department of Education (DepEd)

"I saw a lot of schools and began to realize how disheartening the state of our own school was at the time," she says.

Upon the retirement of the principal, she applied for the post, got it and set out to do what she thought was best under the circumstances.

Funding problem

PHS, which was established in 1908, boasts of having produced some of the nation's leading lights like President Diosdado Macapagal and Supreme Court Justice Jose Gutierrez David, before it fell on bad times as the country's education system deteriorated during the martial law years under the dictator

Ferdinand Marcos. A major problem was funding—a recurring lament blamed for the general breakdown of the past three decades.

From the DepEd, Macaspac could only get a P5 million annual outlay for maintenance and operating expenses-barely enough to pay electric and water bills, among many

other things. She figured that if she could show concrete improvements, take

no problem.

Principal as CEO

In 2001, the Basic Education Act was promulgated, decreeing wideranging reforms that included decentralization and the empowerment of principals in the same fashion as CEOs of business firms.

Drawing from this mandate, Macaspac set out to rehabilitate her school

She met with parents, alumni, community leaders and local officials and outlined a program to raise funds to rehabilitate the school.

She also wrote letters, including one to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who immediately responded with a P22-million donation that was used to raise the school grounds one meter to prevent flooding and to construct a drainage system. Through the years, Ms Arroyo has contributed a

total of P33.5 million Cash donations came from businessmen, companies, the Chinese-Filipino community, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, community leaders and politicians, along with a large number of sympathetic alumni in the country and abroad, particularly in the United

Brigada Eskuela

Members of Brigada Eskuela—a nationwide DepEd initiative to mobilize parents, teachers and community leaders to improve facilities-helped in repairing buildings and cleaning the school

Pive toilets were constructed, a cooperative now runs the canteen and a security force keeps away drug dealers and troublemakers.

Macaspac says students are also being taught vocational skills so they can get jobs if they are unable to proceed to college

There are two computer laboratories with around 50 PCs where students are allowed to surf the 'Netand also learn computer repair There's an automotive shop and a culinary arts kitchen, a beauty salon. Basic agriculture and tilapia

culture are also taught. Teacher training is a priority. At-

responsibility for the projects and tendance at workshops and semiaccount for funds, money should be nars is a must for Macaspac's facul-

Academic proficiency Macaspac has begun to raise the students' academic proficiency. She says that in last year's National Achievement Tests, her students mean score was 47 58 percent, an improvement over the previous year's 36.4 percent. Her target is 75

percent by 2010. Substantial support comes from San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, 61, an alumnus who himself has actively espoused the education cause since his election in 2004

after four terms as a congressman. Last year, Rodriguez secured a P100-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines to be paid out of the Special Education Fund (SEF) that allocates 1 percent of re-

al estate taxes for school expenses. With the money, Rodriguez constructed two-story school buildings in 33 of the 35 barangays in San

He is also providing scholarship grants to 9,000 needy students-P4,000 in food and transport allowances-to arrest the high dropout rate of students who used to attend classes on an empty stomach.

Spending per student

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has pointed out that the Philippines spends only P6,354 per student, compared to the equivalent of P47,700 in Thailand, P56,846 in Malaysia, P123,200 in the United States and P293,440 in Japan.

The Philippines has a student

population of around 20 million. Lapus, who became education secretary a year ago, says that with a high birth rate that annually sends 300,000 new students to primary school, the annual budget is not good for long-term planning

This is the main cause of the disaster in education, academics say, one that engulfs Fupinos in a poverty trap.

For the poor of San Fernando, Ro-

driguez says the only way up is quality education. "We are giving them all the opportunity to rise from the morass The key is a good education," he

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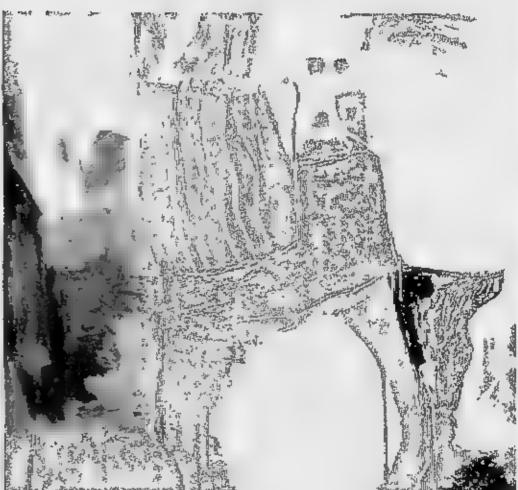
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Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

The painter in the engineer





ONE OF the paintings of Edwin Jumalon, a 44x41-inch oil on canvas titled "Red Highway."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By Bendix M. Fernandez Contributor

"It is the pervading law of all things organic and inorganic ...

That form ever follows function. This is the scratched out by that "laughing hand."

THE PHRASE IS DISTILLED wisdom from the American architectural giant, Louis Sullivan, who developed the shape of the tall steel skyscraper in late 19th century. The credo flourished under Frank Lloyd Wright, who later became one of the world's most influential architects.

It is interesting to find this famous dictum echoed

and defied in the title of Edwin Jumaton's latest art exhibit, "Form Follows Man." It is equally interesting to note that Jumalon is an engineer who has supervised building projects before and who has decided to devote all of his time to visual art.

Opening on Sept. 5 at the Gallery of the Peninsula and the Archipelago, under the auspices of the Ateneo de Zamboanga Umversity, the exhibit sheds light on the artist's current preoccupations.

The works, like Jumalon's past forays into abstraction, reflect the handling of paint chitectural plans and structures.

regardless of any conscious motive or purpose. The artist confirms as much: "I had no preconceived plans of the outcome, save to paint something. Leaning solely on inspiration, there is the assurance that everything comes into place."

A lot of notable painters in history, among them Paul Klee, have taken this approach—that an artist cannot plan his work but must let it grow on its own. Jumalon's works begin with him relating

lines, shapes, and colors to each other, adding a form that has "behaved properly," putting in shapes that "have been waiting in line."

oll on canvas titled "Twilight Memories" on

Hearing the artist speak about the process, one gets the feeling that these works come into their own. The ancients spoke of it as "divine madness." Jumalon speaks of it as "the laughing freedom of the artist's hand." And what has that hand wrought?

Most of the paintings show indistinct forms enveloped by a mist of color. One comes to them like a traveler seeing a city emerging from the fog. In "Ephemera." one seems to be looking at an achingly familiar skyline, the tops of buildings shrouded by a blue and violet sky silhouerted by moonlight,

In three of his works, titled "Stasis 1," "Stasis 2" and "Suspended Disbelief," one is peering through an enveloping haze at tenement buildings where light from the windows seeps through and hint at the warmth beyond. These works are composed of a series of overlapping and predominantly blue rectangular fields bathed in more somber

In "Gypsy Moon," the fog is lifted, red

windows shine brightly, and the architectural shapes grow more distinct. In "The City," one even seems to be gazing at orderly city blocks from a bird's eye view; one fancies seeing entire roads and drives

in "Red Highway" and "Pendulum," that hand seems to grow bolder and more playful, and one is taken out of any recognizable representation entirely and thrust into a world of organic forms that bump and clash with one another like cancer cells run amok

All these thoughts are grounded on this particular viewer's own struggle to coalesce these abstract images into concrete impressions. The completed artworks remain as nonrepresentational works, Jumalon main-

> tains, not intended to symbolize anything from the real world.

· REVIEW "Much like my previous abstract work, they are not intended to prove anything, not to search for anything. Who said, "I don't seek. I find?" (That would be Picasso, who further teased viewers struggling mightily to understand art by saying: Why not try to understand the song of a bird?)

However devoid of any conscious purpose the artist might purport his works to be, one sees glimmers of what the unconscious might intend. Through relating disparate shapes and colors, the series seems to compose a coda to Jumalon's past preoccupations with ar-

The artist might not have had any preconceived notions of where this series might take him; but he certainly recognizes post-work patterns and angles his conceptual frameaccordingly. work Thus, his realization of what his works may hint at through the titles of his paintings and the exhibit itself.

About his own brush with Frank Lloyd Wright's fa-ANOTHER painting of Jumaion, a 40x40-inch mous saying, Jumalon tells this anecdote:

"I always prefer to make a straight line crooked-a perceptual reaction to my failing my Drawing 1 subject as a freshman engineering student. My teacher, a good architect, just did what was to be done: fail the student who voluntarily rejects the compass and ruler in favor of the more whimsical freehand. It was from my architect teacher that I first heard of Wright's famous dicrum 'Form follows function.' She stressed it to our class like John 3:16."

"Form Pollows Man" is his rejoinder to Wright, to that instructor, to the dictate which states that everything must be predicated on its intended purpose, it is anchored on a belief that art was not meant for any particular function-not to teach, not to tell a story, not to serve as a mental exercise, not to impart a moral-but exists for its own sake. Art that should always bend its will to the laughing hand ... that does whatever it wills.

"Form Follows Man" is on exhibit until Oct. 3. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m Mondays to Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday. For inquiries, contact 09274408486 or 09172448877

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Baguio Korean schools in hot water

BAGUIO CITY—SEVERAL KOREAN-RUN SCHOOLS laws are "not bases for closure." here are in hot water for alleged violations of labor laws and for their owners' failure to comply with requirements to operate, an official of the Department of Labor and Employment in the Cordillera said.

Ana Dione, DOLE regional direc- standard four hours daily worktor, told a city council session this load. week that of the 55 Korean-run language schools here, only 37 have been accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda)

Pittance wages

Dione said her agency has inspected 31 English language schools and discovered that seven of these were not paying their employees properly.

English teachers only between P50 and PS5 an hour, lower than the P60 an hour minimum wage for tutors.

their teachers to work beyond the schools because violations of labor

Dione said aside from low wages, most violations of Korean-run schools involved the owners' failure to release the full 13th month pay of their employees and non-payment of the Social Security System and Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) premiums, among others.

She said school owners have been Dione said these schools pay their called to a hearing to discuss the problem. The DOLE, she said, has conducted three hearings since July.

Dione, however, clarified that they She said many schools also ask could not order the closure of these

"Comphance ang sa amin, eh (We just ensure that these schools comply with the requirements)," she

She said many of these foreign schools use only business permits to operate and have not been accredited by Tesda

Felina Carag, Tesda director for Baguio and Benguet, said foreign schools are required to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission and get Tesda accreditation.

Openness

These schools, Caraga said, should also spell out their programs, reveal the shares of their foreign partners and submit a copy of the curriculum and business permit, among others.

Virginia Akiate, a representative of the Commission on Higher Education, told the council that foreign schools operating in the country should also have a student population that is predominantly Filipino.

"They should have more Filipino stu- she said, dents. Not more than a third of the school Northern Luxon

population should be foreign students," Donna Demetillo, Inquirer

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Malaysian execs see peace pact

COTABATO CITY-TWO MALAYSIAN OFFI cials, including the new head of the International Monstoring Team (IMT), yesterday predicted that a final ceasefire agreement could be signed between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front this year.

Malaysian Army Brig. Gen. Yasin bin Mat Daud formally replaced Brig. Gen. Ismael bin Ahmad Khan as IMT head on Friday.

"I am optimistic that a final peace agreement will be achieved before the year ends," Yasın said

He said the atmosphere is now conducive for signing a peace deal because the ceasefire agreement has been very effective.

"The time is ripe for both negotiating panels to come into a peace agreement with finality. Let's hope and pray," Yasin said during ceremonies marking his entry to the Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Bridge collapse injures 10 people

By Carta P. Gomez Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY-A concrete bridge in Sipalay City, 178 4 km south of here. collapsed Friday, causing a truck to fall into the river

or Soledad Montilla said the truck's 10 passengers suffered

Montilla said she had been aslong the national government to help repair the 50bridge, year-old which connected Barangays Gil Montilla and Nauhang.

She said a new barangays would cost about P10 million. Since the bridge was destroyed, Montilla said, travel to Barangay Nauhang would be more difficult.

Before the bridge collapsed, only light vehicles were al-

to deliver cargo to Negros Oriental, said there was no notice placed before the bridge that trucks were not allowed

that trucks have using the

Board votes in favor Sipalay City May-

lowed to use it due to its fragile state.

But businessman through the bridge.

Trecho claimed been



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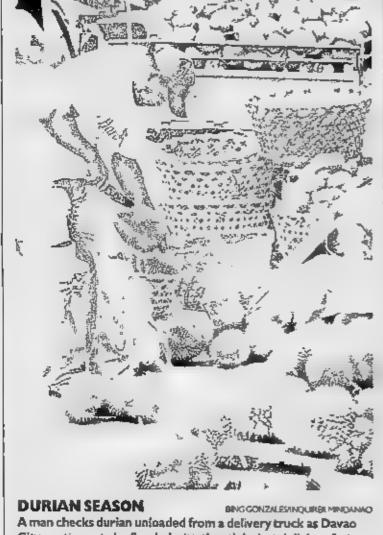
By tomorrow, September 24, Monday, there will be substantial improvement in traffic in the Southbound Valenzuela-Balintawak section of the NLEX.

The on-going roadworks in that section will be completed on or before September 28 when ALL southbound lanes will be opened to traffic.

We apologize for all the inconvenience the roadworks have caused. As we resume normal southbound operations, we assure you of our continued delivery of high quality services.

> Thank you for your patience and understanding.





City continues to be flooded with the stinky but delicious fruit.

of mayors vs Panlilio CITY OF SAN FERNANDO-The Pampanga Mayors' League has won the first round against Gov. Eddte Panlilio as the provincial board, with a 10-0 vote, approved on Friday an or-

dinance that gave mayors bigger regulatory powers over the province's multimilion-peso quarry industry. Reached by phone from Cebu

City, Panilibo told the Inquirer he would "veto [Ordinance No 172) to uphold public interests." "Several provisions violate existing laws. It is not totally

lawful," sa.d Panhlio, "We would take this all the way up to the court, if necessary." Apart from giving mayors a bigger role in the quarry industry, the ordinance increased revenue shares for towns and vil-

rages and abolished the provincial capitol's P150 administrative fee for every truckload of sand hauled out of Pampanga. Board Members Crisostomo Garbo, Tarcicio Halili, Catalina Bagasına, Ceferino Laus, Arthur Salalila, Edna David, Ricardo

the ordinance in its full text. Vice Gov. Jose, ler Gutao did not vote on account of his being the board's presiding officer. He said Panhlio has 10 days to act on the ordinance

Yabut, Johnny Quiambao, Nelson

Calara and Nilo Cabada approved

Prior to the board's voting, the PML submitted a resolution expressing "collective support" for the ordinance, Dated Sept. 19, it was signed by mayors of seven sand-rich towns and 13 mayors of towns where there are no quarry activities.

The resolution came 22 days after Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, PML president, submitted bridge between the the draft of the measure to the board on Aug 29

Pineda did not give his reaction to the approval of the ordinance when asked through PML secretary Sticky Blanco.

The board voted after reading the position paper of the Abak na Balen and Pampanga Associations of Non-Government Organizations, which asked for more consultations on

Antonio Ayson, a quarry operator, said the board "did not have Bing Trecho, who much time consulting with the had leased the truck goose," referring to the quarry industry that he called the "goose" that lays the golden eggs."

Quarry collections as of Sept. 20 have reached P60.22 milhon, a capitol report showed. The amount is more than double the P29 1 million the administration of former Gov. Mark Lapid had collected in 2006. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer



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Beetles, rooster make reading fun at Inquirer

A BEETLE, A ROOSTER AND A GIRL WITH behavior, ecology and diversity incredible hair were just some of the characters the audience met yesterday during the tenth In- Rooms" by Robert Magnuson. QUIRER Read-Along session.

The session featured Daniel Moore, energy and environment chief of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ms Philippines-Earth 2007 Jeanne Harn, 7-year-old Mar Deo Cxelci Zuñiga and returning Alitaptap storyteller Rich Rodriguez.

Harn, together with beauty

queens Krystel Ann Dizon (Miss Philippines-Air), Sarah Katrina Miñoza (Miss Philippines-Fire) and Anna Katrina Bautista (Miss Philippines-Eco-Tourism), led the audience in a song and dance number about taking care of the environment.

Moore, a coleopterist (some-

of beetles), was joined by Harn in reading "Mr. Beetle's Many

Moore told his audience, made up of some 70 children and their parents, that he loved to read, especially about bugs.

Reading stimulates the mind and encourages people to go explore things in life. You get a lot of ideas from reading, but at the end of the day, you cannot stay with your nose stuck in the book. You have to take what one who studies the life cycles, you read and apply it to real

world experiences," he said.

Then Moore brought out his beetle collection, which delighted the children.

The collection included a Goliath beetle, "the biggest beetle in the world," he said, adding that he found the insect in Africa when he worked for 15 years.

For something completely different, Zuñiga, a student at the Bagong flog Elementary and black rooster costume and instead of reading-start-"acting out" Rebecca

Manok."

Zuñiga, a division winner in "Pagkukuwento sa Filipino," a storytelling contest in Pasig, has been reading since he was 2.

Alitaptap storyteller Rich Rodriguez read two stories: "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Racquel* by Dr. Luis Gatmaitan and "Billy Goats Gruff."

The children were given free School in Pasig, donned a red copies of the comic book, "Hari ng Kalsada."

Sponsors of yesterday's seswere Krispy Kreme,

Añonuevo's "Ang Mahiyaing Scholastic Books, Hands on Manila, Soroptimist International of Eastwood City and Digna Aguino of Library Hub in

> The next Inquirer Read-Along session will be on Oct. 13 at the Inquirer office in Makati and on Oct 20 at National Bookstore at Shangn-La Mall in Mandaluyong Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329 Slots are on a first-come, firstserved basis. Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research



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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Reviving the tertulia: A might of song and 100 fingers on the keyboard

By Allison W. Lopez

LONG BEFORE TELEVISION SETS OR karaoke machines were invented, entertainment for some Filipinos, particularly among well-to-do families, meant gathering around the piano and singing or playing stirring music.

In fact, toward the end of the 19th century until the start of World War II, "tertulias"—or soirces where artists and lovers of art and culture would regale one another with music or poetry-were common in mansions in Intramuros.

As part of its 100th year celebration, the School of Music of St. Scholastica's College will hold a tertulia on Oct. 7 featuring, among others, several pianists aged 7 to 87.

Members of the faculty and alumnae will also participate in the one-and-a-half hour concert which pays tribute to the founder of the School of Music, German nun Sr. Bap-

"Our founder came to the Philippines right about this period and so we thought it fitting that we should celebrate her musical life with an adaptation of the tertulia in a concert setting," said St. Mary Placid, the school dean.

"We'd like to bring back those days ... It's going to be a modern tertulia, so instead of discussions that also used to come with it, it's going to be a musical hour," added SSC president, Sr. Angelica Leviste

Although Battig naturally leaned toward European compositions, Leviste said the nun also stressed to her students the importance of enriching one's own music.

"We chose Western and Filipuno compositions for the tertulia because Sister Battig said, 'I would like the children of the East to play as well as the children of the West. But I also want them to compose based on the techniques from Western masters," she added.

Faculty member Camille Lopez Molina will begin the concert by singings two songs composed by German musicians admired by Battig: "Vidmung (Dedication)" by Robert Schumann and "The Erlking" by Franz Schubert.

Molina will be accompanied on the piano by Greg Zuniega, another member of the faculty, in telling the dramatic legend often recounted by Battig to her students.

But unlike regular concerts, this modern-day tertulia will have the pianists walking off and on the stage, eliminating the need for curtains.

To recreate the cozy setting of these pre-WWII social gatherings, five pianos will be set up on the stage of the school's St. Cecilia's Hall,



AMONG those who will perform is 87-yearold Cora Mateo who graduated from the School of Music in 1948.

along with classical wooden furniture that performers can sit on while waiting for their cue.

Among the featured planists are Lorenzo Torres, a 7-year-old boy, and his music teacher, Mae de Vera. They will play "Variations of a Nursery Rhyme op. 25" simultaneously with four other performers, including 87 year-old Cora Mateo.

Torres has been playing since he was 4 while Mateo has been passing on her planoplaying techniques to students since she graduated from SSC in 1948.

Seated beside each other during a recent practice session, the two showed spectators how music can bridge gaps between gener-

"As you grow older it gets harder, and you get nervous because sometimes, your fingers ger stiff," admitted Mareo, laughing.

Still, she showed grace and form as she hit the keys beside Torres who was beaming

as he played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Not to be outdone, 10 nuns led by Placid, Leviste, Mother Prioress Sr. Mary John

Mananzan and Sr. Pia Lansang, former prioress, will perform "Filipiniana II." Next, a hundred fingers, or 10 pianists composed of faculty members and alumnae, will be playing in duet or alternates Filipino folk songs like "Katakataka," "Ahay

Tuburan," and "Pandangguhan." Pianist and stage director Della Besa said there was an added degree of difficulty

when people play the piano simultaneously. "You need to know the piece well and the

parts to be played by the others as well. The

Pianists pay tribute to St. Scho School of Music founder, Sr. Baptista Battig, in a concert on Oct. 7



THE YOUNGEST performer in the group is Lorenzo Torres, aged 7. He has been playing since he was 4 years old.

plained.

Other performers are members of the SSC Chamber Orchestra who will sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

School of Music for more than 30 years be-

important thing is you must listen," she ex- fore her death in 1942, Grace Africa Gatchahan will perform Maurice Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess" with cello obbligato by Gerry Graham Gonzales.

Battig and the tertulia may be distant mem-In honor of Battig, who headed the ories by now, but Scholasticans will surely live and breathe music for generations to come.



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THE SISTERS of St. Scholastica's College hold their own beside the more experienced

planists during a rehearsal.



Marine biologist keeps 'little trees,' not coral reefs, in backyard nursery

By Julie M. Aurelio

ant clams.

In his spare time, however, Dr. Edgardo Gomez plays "foster father" to thousands of baby trees he grows in pots and plastic bags in his backyard

"I don't really keep track of them. I've probably grown thousands," said the 68year old professor

But his trees of choice are not the common acato Gomez, are not even endemic to the country

He clarified that most species commonly considered as homegrown are, in fact, exotic and came from South America or mainland Asia. These include the acacia, ipil-ipil, Indian, kapok, mahogany, Gmelina and

eucalyptus.

His backyard in Ayala Ala-DURING OFFICE HOURS, THE bang Village in Muntinlupa City tall, bearded professor of ma- measures 40-sq m and is home rine biology spends most of his to 100 or so baby trees, Ironical time studying coral reefs and gi- ly, there is only one full grown

tree---a macopa---on his property.

Gomez said he looks after narra, apitong, molave, malabulak, and calampit trees

"This advocacy of mine started as just a past time. Planting native trees is my hobby, the way other people have their own hobbies," he toid the INQUIRER.

Asked how long it takes for a cia or ipil-ipil, which, according seed to bloom and become a "attle tree," Gomez said it depends on the specie and the quality of the soil and water used during the planting pro-

> When his trees mature, they are replanted on the sprawling University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City, where

he served for nearly 25 years as the MS1 founding director of the Marine Science Institute (MSI).

Most of his "babies" can be found at the College of Science complex, bounded by C.P Garcia and A. Roces Sr. Avenues. frontally, the campus is mostly populated with exotic trees and not with native species, he points out

"Our country is rich in flora. But we know more about exotic types than our own native varieties. Is it because these are easier to grow?" Gomez asked.

trees in 1987 on the Diliman campus, be eving that it was but logical to fill the Sunken Garden with narra, not acacia trees. Some of his babies have grown nearly 100 feet tall Gomez hastened to add with a chuckle, "But if I ask them to cut down the acacias, they will kill

Gomez is only able to care for trees in his spare time as he is still actively conducting research on coral reefs and in vertebrate reproduction at

He called himself "an opporturnstic gardener" who plants whatever seeds he can get his hands on

Gomez gets his seeds from friends who stumble upon amazing finds, or from trips to different places in the country. He then plants these in pots, cans or even plastic bags backyard.

"Phoebe sometimes gets angry because of the many seedlings in our garden. She even asked me to move out He began planting native some of them," he confessed, referring to his wife, a former ambassador to Myanmar

> Gomez said his penchant for growing native trees came about while growing up in a farm in Angeles City, Pampan-

Belonging to a landed family, Gomez spent his childhood in a four-hectare farm where he raised tomatoes as a ch.ld. His mother, Pacita, loved plants and had her own garden

But when Japanese forces occupied the country, the Gomezes moved to an apart ment building in Pasay City owned by his father

"I'm really the son of a farmer," he said in jest, adding that growing up in a farm "made me love nature and trees.'

When the manne biologist got his own apartment, also in his father's building, he began planting native trees in small pots on his verandah Gomez De La Salle University. moved to Ayala Alabang eight years ago and has continued growing trees in his backyard

Gomez also gives away seedlings to friends and to schools such as the Holy Anger University in Pampanga and the

DR. EDGARDO Gomez shows one of his "babies"—the seed of the apitong tree. PHOTOS BY AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"Trees give me pieasure and enjoyment I don't plant them for myse,f but for others," he said, adding that it costs him less than P100 to buy son and plastic bags for the seeds.

Gomez has thought of selling

his little trees, but he said his day job at the MSI already pays for the buls and much more

Said the dedicated professor, "I do it for the love of it You can do a lot with so little. All it takes is perseverance, determination







TEVEN OFWS DESERVE SOME pampering—especially the caregivers who tend to age quickly because of the rigars of their work. So when they return to their piace of work, they lesi better because they look better " VICKI BELO, Saptember 2007

EDITOR'S NOTE: The IMFO column: of lawyer Lourdes Santos Tancinco

Love in a time of martial law

This section is dedicated to Filipines eversess tolling an land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the wor

By Philip C. Tubeza Correspondent

ONG KONG—SHE was pregnant and on the run from military agents hunting her down He was in a military stockade smuggling out letters in candy wrappers in the hope that these would reach her.

For then student activists Edna and Alex Aquino, the onset of martial law was a crucible that molded their young lives together as they desperately kept alive underground the fight against the Marcos dictatorship while trying to eke out a life for their family in Manila.

Alex would be arrested twice by the military while many of his friends who had taken up arms were killed in violent encounters with soldiers in the countryside.

Edna would try to convince a young Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to formally join the communist movement (See related story below) and, in the 1980s, be among the first to look into the plight of the growing number of Filipino migrants leaving the country.

Edna received an award from Queen Elizabeth II in 2003 for her community work among Filipino migrants in London.

But it's the memories of martial law that remain most vivid for the couple, now based in Hong Kong. Perticularly for Edna, those dark days would always remind her of how she bagged her husband while being on the run.

Anniversary

"Martial law helped me get my husband," Edna said, adding that she considered its onset as their anniversary. [The declaration of martial law was officially announced on Sept. 23, 1972. signed the declaration Sept. 21,

"It was when we formalized (our affair) that we would like to live as a couple. That is why we celebrate our anniversary during martial law," she said

A distant relative of former President Corazon Aguino (on the Sumulong-Cojuangeo side), Alex was then being hunted down by the military for being one of the leading activists of the Kabataang Makabayan, a radical lefust youth

the Ateneo de Manila University student council and headed the Student Alliance for National Democracy, a coalition of different student councils across the

nist Party of the Philippines a few months before Ferdinand Marcos declared martial rule on

also stones that, looking back, would make us smile," she said.

be written. It's not just sad stories. We grew up also in the midst of

It happened on 3rd night

Alex and Edna had known each other for a year when martial law was declared, which when it came, she got lucky since they ing activists went underground.

"It was the third right of martional situation)," Edna said.

na nga siya, Ayun," she said.

Edna added: "So a few weeks after, we were 'married' but in a way that we ourselves defined it because in the movement then, you had to go through the process of informing the collective,

when they became close friends during those heady days of student activism.

But President Perdinand Marcos not know if he also liked me,"

side streets of Manila

Edna had joined the Commu-

Sept. 21, 1972.

"I don't want to be misinterpreted that I'm trying to trivialize what happened. What happened to activists like us was really full of drama. There were so many sad stories of course but there were

"These stones should one day making mistakes "

were the ones paired off as lead-

dal law and we were sleeping in the house of a fellow activist. He was assessing what was happening. We called it NatSit (national situation) and IntSit (interna-

"Biglang nag-fast forward siya, Alam mo may sasabihin ako sayo." Naku e di nanlamig na ako. 'Naku eto na nga yun.' Tapos nagtapat

but for us, basta kami, kami,"

Edna had fallen for Alex

"He was my crush but I did

But they never got married in church They later obtained a marriage certificate so that Edna could use Alex's surname to avoid detection as they went through a dangerous cat and mouse game with military agents in the dark alleys and

At first, they hid in the houses of friends, relatives, or acquaintances but this later proved to be untenable since their presence posed a danger to their hosts. He was a former president of And so after a few months on the

run, the activists decided to rent apartments and turn these into "UG" or underground houses.

And since it was martial law, communication between the different cells of the underground was severely restricted.

*Sometimes we ended up (unknowingly) renting apartments two blocks away from each other, and we would later find out that we had the same landlord," Edna said.

Secret letters

They had to be prepared to jump out of the window at any given moment due to the threat of a raid by the military.

ughtgown or in your underwear. No way. You had to wear at least shorts and a T-shirt so you could mingle with the crowd when you escape," Edna said.

And during Christmas time, they were so sad because they could not visit their families.

And it became more of a challenge for Edna when Alex was arrested in January 1973 after the military raided a house where he was hiding. Afterwards, Edna

learned she was pregnant, "I continued with my life in the underground but it was so difficult because we had no contact," she said.

She later took courage and contacted his mother and asked her if she could carry her letter to Alex who was detained in Fort Bonifacio. "It was hidden inside a candy wrapper. His reply came in a cigarette pack. Alam mo yung silver na patara? Yun ang stationary niya. Madra-

that we could (communicate secretly)," Edna said.

many twists and turns in their lives in the years of living dangerously in Manila.

COMRADES AND LOVERS: Alex and Edna Aquino skt idly in the comfort of his remittance office in Term Sha Tsui in Hong Kong, recalling the

"When he was released around May, I was already heavy with our first child. So I said my pregnancy would make me less vulnerable to arrest so I surfaced naturally and gave birth in October"

The military did not arrest her but the next year, they again arrested Alex and her mother and sister while the Miss Universe beauty pageant was held

Luckily, a delegation from Amnesty International was then visiting the country to document human rights abuses and "You could not sleep in your make a public case abroad against the Marcos regime

> The case of Alex and his in-laws were supposed to be the first on the Al list but that did not push through after Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ordered his re-

Normal lives

"Minister Enrile told me, 'So, what's the case?' and he asked why (Alex) was arrested. Sabi ko, 'Sir, you should know because you signed the (arrest) order," Edna said.

"Ang taray taray ko na noon (but) you know right then he signed (Alex's) release?"

Edna and Alex tried to live normal lives and raise a family after his release in 1974. He worked for the Cojuangeos while Edna joined the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, ironically a project of then First Lady Imelda Marcos. But then their comrades from the underground contacted them, and

ma. We relished the thought before they knew it, they were their advocacies, focusing on their again deeply involved in the fellow migrant workers. struggle against the dictatorship.

works and then we also began movement. We were doing it for looking at migrant workers. I was one of those who started the thinking on how to organize the workers abroad," Edna said.

But by then, debates within the party began to surface about what to do with the democratic space opened up by the fall of Marcos. Edna became demoralized as she began having more and more differences with the party line.

Oueen's award

Her demoralization came to a head after the military arrested her in June 1990 in Makati on charges that she and Alex were behind the kidnapping of soldiers in Quezon province which happened when they were out of the country. Alex was then abroad when Edna was arrested.

While in jail, she learned about a job opening in Amnesty International in London and so she applied for it.

"I had three children waiting in grade school. So I applied for my job from jail. To cut the story short, I made a deal with the military that I will apply for amnesty," Edna said.

"So I tried to take control of my life and be ready to face the conseguences. And I have no regrets."

After leaving the Philippines, Edna worked as Al's gender advocacy manager, leading its Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, while Alex is now in the remittance business. They cut their ties with the CPP but continued in

"Our service for the country is *I was building solidarity net- not just about the party or the people," Edna said

"We set up this center that became a role model in London for its good work to the extent that it gor the Queen's award in 2003 and then a year after that we got a similar award from Malacañang. So many blessings."

The Centre for Filipinos was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubileee Award for voluntary service by groups in the community on the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation

Edna and Alex said they miss re friends they had in the underground, adding that they continue to be grateful to the party for the "privilege" of being part of the struggie against the dicratorship.

Still activists

Said Alex: "It forged very close ties among people of the same persuasion. You lived through life and death situations and so you have the same memories."

Said Edna: "I'm very thankful to the party and the people who have molded me along the way. I'll never, never turn my back on that. But you grow and I certainly have outgrown the party."

"Now, we are activists in our own persons and still committed to meaningful and genuine social change and to social justice. We don't have any organizational affiliation or loyalty that can be burdensome. As long as you are honest, true and confident in yourself, that's what is important."

'GMA supported communist movement, but hated Joma'

By Philip Tubeza Correspondent

KONG-PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo might now be planning an all-out war to crush the communists, but during the martial law years until the early 1980s she was one of its active supporters.

So close was the collaboration that she was once even invited to formally join the National Democratic Front.

According to Alex and Edna Aquino, former members of the communist underground, Ms Arroyo, then a budding economics professor, "took risks" and actively supported the Left as part of the broad coalition against the Marcos dictatorship.

Extremely devoted

But she declined to formally join the communists because Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, had branded her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, as an American

The label was contained in the book Philippine Society and Revolution, purportedly authored by Sison.

"She was part of the network of the (underground)," Edna said. "At one point, we approached her if she could formally join the NDE" "(Gloria) said that she will

only be open to any discussion on that if that labeling of her father's regime or government would be removed," she added.

Edna said that Ms Arroyo became an anti-Marcos personality at that time because of her father, "She was extremely devoted to her father," she said.

Ferdinand Marcos defeated Ms Arroyo's father in his bid to get reelected in the 1965 presidential elections.

"Gloria was so angry about that labeling of her father but equally mad at Joma," Edna said.

And so Ms Arroyo was not formally inducted into the NDF since the party of course would not revise the then influential

treatise of its founding chair.

Nevertheless, the young Arroyo continued to support the Left, according to Edna. Alex added that she also helped produce position papers about the country's economic situation and how the economic model post-Marcos should be at that time.

Simple, generous

"Tumulong siya consciously, She was a very good ally of the ND (national democratic) movement as part of the anti-Marcos movement right after martial law until, if I can recall, until probably Ninoy's time," Edna said.

"She was one of those who took risks. We would have open and deep discussions with her." Edna said the future Presi-

dent then was "a very simple, generous" individual "We became friends, with lots of mutual respect for each other," Edna said.

Edna said she would also defend Ms Arroyo's anti-Marcos record whenever others, partic-

mer President Corazon Aquino, would dismiss it.

"I would tell them Look, she was part of the anti-Marcos group then' (but) they would vehemently deny it. I would say 'Come on. GMA was part of it.' Why deny her role?" she said.

"They were even denying that she marched with us on Ayala (Avenue) but I saw her. We were marching together in Ayala. Maybe not every Friday but I definitely saw her," she added

Edna said this attitude of some blue-blooded activists at that time was in part caused by her identification with the Left.

Close to China

"(It's) either You're one of us or you're not one of us.' E lba naman ang association ni GMA noon. She was more on our side than on the side of the conocono (the Spanish-speaking anti-Marcos elite) Interesting tolaga yan. Yung twists and turns," Edna said.

Edna and Alex also remem-

establish "people to people relations" with communist China as early as 1973.

"Very special friends sila ng China, which needed all the friends it could tap to boost its diplomatic ties abroad, particularly in the Philippines, then seen as a strong ally of the US," Alex said.

"Kaya si Gloria ngayon napakalapit niyan sa China kasi hındi nakakalımutan ng Chına na noong panahon na hindi sila popular etong Presidente na to, at the risk of siguro of her career, hindi pa siguro her life, was already supporting them.

But Edna and Alex are also critical of the dismal human rights record of the Arroyo administration, particularly with the recent spate of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of leftists.

"GMA as President is not the GMA whom I consider my ularly those associated with for- ber Ms Arroyo being pair of air friend. She is the head of state. God will judge

effort facilitated by the Left to and the state is responsible for all of these," Edna said

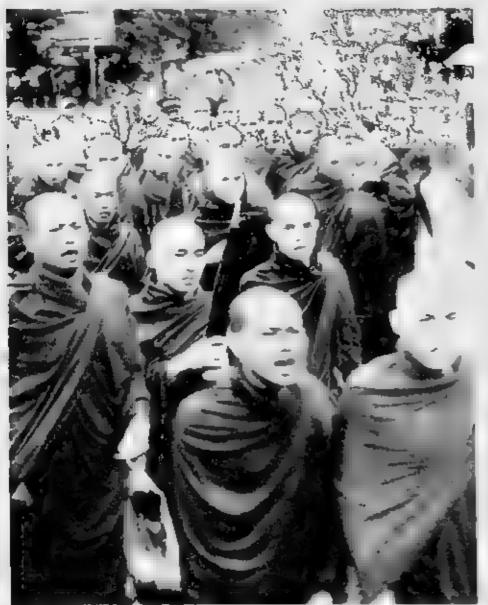
"At hindl lang yung killings. There are many wrong decisions, I'm equally critical of the Hello Garci tape scandal

Edna said she would have no qualms about telling Ms Arroyo what she thought about these abuses if they get to meet again.

"But she as Gloria who is my friend of those years when we were in the anti-Marcos front, we will always cherish those memories. Why will she be deprived of that acknowledgement of her contribution as an individual?" she said.

"On the other hand, with all these reconciliatory moves between the Arroyo presidency and the Marcoses-she can't blame people and even friends in her previous life to question the moral standards that she fought for during that time," Edna said

"Ultimately, that's really between her and her conscience, It's a chapter in her own personal journey. Only history and



MONKS march during a protest against the government in Rangoon on Sept. 21.

1,500 monks hold protest march in Burma capital

RANGOON—AT LEAST 3,000 PEOPLE carried multicolored religious flags. led by Buddhist monks marched along flooded streets in this capital on Friday, piling pressure on the ruling junta in Burma (also known as Myanmar) in the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly 20 years.

About 1,500 cinnamon-robed monks marched barefoot through the city, attracting an equal number of followers who left the sidewalks in driving rain to wade through sometimes knee-deep water and chant prayers calling for peace.

Hundreds more people clapped from the sidewalks and from open windows along the route as the procession

The protests that began on Aug. 19 have turned into the most prolonged show of defiance in nearly 20 years against the military, which has ruled this impoverished nation since 1962.

The latest protest began with about 500 Buddhist monks walking to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma's most important landmark, witnesses said.

As they continued their march into downtown, the number of monks swelled to 1,500 with another 1,500 supporters joining them. About 100 women formed

They stopped outside the Rangoon (Yangon) city hall, where they chanted prayers, reciting: "Peace and security will prevail. The people will not be harmed."

Monks have protested against the regime all week, revitalizing antijunta rallies that erupted a month ago amid public anger over a massive hike in fuel prices, which has left many imable to afford bus fare to get to work.

"Monks are taking to the streets in order to make the government listen and understand people's suffering," said Aung Naing Oo, a Thailand-based Burma analyst.

Some monks have refused to accept donations from members of the military, a gesture seen as a severe rebuke tantamount to excommunication for Buddhists, who believe that giving alms daily is an important religious duty.

More than 150 people, including some of the nation's most prominent prodemocracy leaders, have been arrested since the protests began last month.

Burma's prodemocracy movement has long demanded reforms from the regime and freedom for Nobel peace laureate 2 students Aung San Sun Kyi, who has spent most of a human chain to protect the monks, who the last 18 years under house arrest. AFP

26 nations urge rapid deployment of UN peace force to Darfur

UNITED NATIONS—A MEETING OF LEADERS FROM 26 nations called Friday for the rapid deployment to Darfur of the 26,000-member African Union-UN peacekeeping force approved by the Security Council and the participation of all rebel groups in peace talks scheduled for next month.

"If they are really leaders and think about the future of Sudan, they should go to the dialogue table," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said The talks are to be in Tripoli, Libya, and some of the groups fighting the Khartoum government have expressed reservations about attending.

Alpha Oumar Konare, chair of the African Union, said the groups would have "full guarantees" that their views would be heard. "It is not acceptable that those that claim to be fighting for their peoples refuse to come to the negotiating table," he said.

The participants also witnessed a dispute over the composition of the force that Sudan was insisting must be all-African but others were saying must have some non-African elements if it was to meet UN standards.

"We don't need them," Lam Akol, Sudan's foreign minister, said when asked about troops offered by Thai-

land and Uruguay, countries that tradinonally supply trained peacekeepers for UN missions. There are enough African troops," he added, saying that Africans had already promised almost twice the number needed

John D. Negroponte, the US deputy secretary of state said, "Sudan has nothing to be afraid of " from the inclusion of non-African troops. Saying that the Sudanese government should stop its "foot-dragging," he noted that 18 months after the signing of an original peace agreement for Darfur, "we are still just in the initial phase."

Lord Malloch-Brown, the former deputy secretary-general who is now Britain's minister of state for Africa, Asia and the United Nations, suggested the matter should be removed from the political sphere and settled on a "technical" basis based on the specialized needs of the force



A CHINESE soldier from an engineering unit practices at an army camp in Qinyang in Henan province on Sept. 15. The soldier is a part of a 315-member multifunctional. unit that will go for a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Darfur region of Sudan in the near future.

Ban said, "This issue should not be viewed as some difference on political issues." He said it would be "resolved through technical discussions." NYT

US says 1 million Chinese-made cribs recalled after infants' deaths

infant deaths, the US Consumer Product

Safety Commission said on Friday. The drop-side can detach from the crib, which can create a dangerous gap that leads to an infant being trapped and suffocated, the safety agency said in a statement, it urged parents to check all Simplicity-made cribs to ensure the drop-side is installed correctly.

The cribs, priced between \$100 and \$300, were sold by US retailers and chains, including Target Corp's website, Big Lots Inc. and family-owned Meijer Inc.

The drop-side failures result from volving the recalled products. supplier of baby furniture to Wal-Mart both the hardware and crib design, can weaken the hardware and cause the drop-side to detach from the crib. When the drop-side detaches, it creates a gap in which infants can become entrapped."

> Two separate infant deaths involving a 9-month-old and a 6-month-old occurred when cribs with older-style hardware had the drop-side installed upside down, the agency said.

The CPSC said it was also investigating a third death that had newer-style hardware. The agency has received reports of seven infant entrapments in-

"CPSC is also aware of two incidents Stores Inc. and other big retailers, is recall- which allow consumers to unintentional- that occurred when the drop-side was ing about one million Chinese-made baby ly install the drop-side upside down," the correctly installed with older style cribs that have been linked to at least two safety commission, said. "This, in turn, hardware, though the upside down installation greatly increases the risk of failure," the agency said.

Although the cribs were made in China, the safety agency downplayed that aspect of the massive recall.

"This recall isn't a China-made problem. It's more about hardware and crib design and less about it being assembled in China," a CPSC spokesperson said.

China has been in the spotlight for a series of recent recalls involving products ranging from lead-painted toys to tainted toothpaste and pet food.

Fujimori loses extradition battle, to be sent to Peru

SANTIAGO—FORMER President Alberto Fujimori lost his battle against extradition from Chile on Friday and was due to be taken to Lima to face charges of human rights abuse and corruption.

The man famed for crushing Maoist rebel group, the Shining Path, during his 1990-2000 rule was expected to be taken from his temporary residence on the outskirts of the Chilean capital Santiago to the city's airport on Fnday

From there, Chilean police said he would be flown to the border with Peru where he would be handed to Peruvian authorities, hours after Chile's Supreme Court sealed his fate by ordering his extradition.

The 69-year-old's hasty, forced departure from Chile came nearly two years after he arrived unexpectedly in Santiago from Japan aiming to make a political comeback in Peru. The son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori had spent five years in exile in Japan following the collapse of his government in 2000.

In his two years under arrest in Chile, he has fought a constant legal battle to avoid extradition to the country he once ruled.

That battle ended on Friday when Chile's Supreme Court ruled in favor of Peruvian prosecutors. The decision, which cannot be appealed, was a surprise and contradicted an earlier rul-

ing by one of the court's own judges. The court unanimously accepted evi-



FUJIMORI

dence linking Fujimori to two notorious massacres—known as Barrios Altos and La Cantuta-in the early 1990s, when Peru was at war with the Shining Path.

Students, a professor and a child were among the 25 killed in the massacres, which Peruvian state prosecutors blame on death squads run by Fujimori's government.

"(The vote) was much easier than we thought and the important thing above all was Barrios Altos and La Canruta," said Alberto Chaigneau, one of five judges who heard the case

In an interview after the ruling, Fujimori said he would clear his name in Lima and insisted his tough actions had been necessary to rid Peru of Latin America's bloodiest insurgents. Reuters

shot in US campus row

DOVER, DEL .-- THE CAMPUS OF Delaware State University was locked down Friday after two freshman students were shot and wounded, one seriously, when an argument that had begun at a university cafeteria resumed on the street, the police said

The two suspects in the shootings were also students, the police said. One was taken into custody for questioning, and the other was being sought Friday night. Neither was identified publicly.

University officials responded quickly to the shootings, which occurred shortly before 1 a.m. near Memorial Hall, a complex that includes the gymnasium and athletics department offices.

Officials alerted students of the emergency within 15 minutes and locked down most buildings. Within two hours, students and administrators said, officials at the 162-hectare campus about 153 km east of Washington, had posted flyers at dorms and a message on the campus website. They also telephoned campus residence halls to make sure resident advisers knew what was going on and to tell them that classes were canceled Priday

The police said that not long before the shooting, a group of eight to 10 students left the cafeteria after an argument. When they encountered one another again at a nearby corner, one of them pulled a gun and began firing.

Shalita Middleton, 17-year-old from Washington, was shot twice in the torso, and Nathaniel Pew, 17, of Washington, was shot once in the ankle, officials in the District of Columbia mayor's office said.

Castro reappears to quash rumors about his demise

HAVANA-CUBAN LEADER FIDEL Castro appeared in his first television interview in more than three months on Friday, ending speculation that the ailing revolutionary had died or suffered a major relapse.

Castro, 81, spoke slowly about world affairs, the Cold War and the global economy, but appeared little changed from the last time he was shown in a state television interview on June 5.

"Here I am," Castro said, rebuffing those who have speculated that he was at death's door, already dead or about

Dressed in what has become a customary red, blue and white athletic jacket, sitting in an armchair and showing his age through the gray in his beard and bags under his eyes, Castro answered questions about an essay he published this week and attacked the United States, his longtime ideological foe.

'Yesterday the euro was at \$1.41. Oil, I think, about \$84 a barrel," Castro said at one point, indicating that he was up to date on current affairs and signaling that the interview was very recent.

He also held up a copy of a book by former US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan, "The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World," which was published this week, and read excerpts in Spanish from the dust jacket.

Castro, who took power on the Caribbean island in a 1959 revolution, handed over control to his younger brother, Raul Castro, on July 31, 2006, after emergency intestinal surgery. He has not appeared in public since then.

Instead, he has been seen in occasional photographs and videos with visiting foreign leaders and has published



FRAIL BUT QUITE ALIVE: Cuba leader Fidel Castro on Sept. 21.

a steady stream of columns and essays in state media over the past six months.

His failure to appear on his birthday on Aug. 13 fueled rampant rumors in Miami-the heartrand of exiled opposition to his nearly five-decade-long rule-that Castro had had a major health setback, was on his deathbed or was already dead.

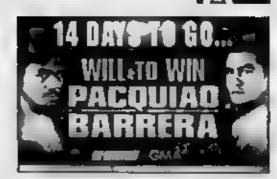
The interview amazed Cubans, 70 percent of whom had known no other leader before Castro fell sick last year.



WHAT'S INSIDE **■** Barrera knocked out? /A23



Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa Website: www.inquirum.net/sports Text as your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph.



RP netters off to a blazing start

vs Kuwaitis; 'toxic food' downs Mamiit KUWAIT CITY-THE PHILIPPINES HANDILY WON ITS first two singles matches in the Asia-Oceania Zone Davis Cup Group II finals tie with Kuwait

Friday. ... The country is thus just one win shy infreturning back to Group I in the elite competition, but that bid hit a major snag when top gun Cecil Mamit was downed by a "certain toxic ingredient" after taking his dinner.

Mamiit blasted Ahmad Rabeea Muhammad, 6-3, 6-0, 6-0, and Taino followed it up with a 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (5) win over Kuwaiti No. 1 Mohammad Al-

The team feasted on tinolang manok (chicken ginger stew) for dinner. At around midnight, Mamiit complained of discomfort and had to be taken to jugular late last night but as of press the New Dor Al Shifa hospital by non-

playing Martin Misa and coach Chris Cuarto.

The Filipino-American netter was given the antihistamine medicine Telfast and was advised to take a rest for at least three days.

Near Group 1 stint after taking 2-0 lead

"This is the first time that I had this (allergy)," the 31 year-old Mamnt said. "We've been eating tinolong manok the past few days but this time, something in the food caused this, I

The Filipinos were to go for the . time, it is still uncertain if Mamiit can

play with Tamo in their doubles encounter against Al-Ghareeb and

John Tierro or

Johnny Arcilla.

The reverse sin-

played today.

match, the 20-year-

old Muhammad had

the Kuwaiti gallery

cheering wildly as

the eight-time

Davis Cup cam-

paigner chal-

will be

the first

take a 3-2 lead in the first set. It proved to be his finest moment as Misa said if Mamilt cannot Mamilt swept the next 16 games en play, he will put in route to a 1-0 Philippine lead. either Patrick

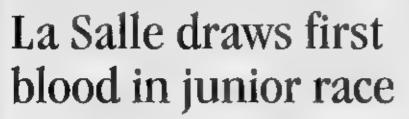
In the next match, Ai-Ghareeh sent the Kuwaitis into another frenzy by breaking Taino's serve in the second game for a 2-0 first-set lead. It was a brief celebration as Taino broke back in the second game to ignite a six-game streak for the first-set win.

lenged Mamiit in the first five games to

The next six games saw both players holding serve before Taino gained the upperhand with a break in the seventh game. It sparked another six game run for a two-set lead and a 3-0 edge in the third set

Al-Ghareeb managed to tie with a break in the fifth game of the third set. The next six games went according to serve with Taino squandering five match points in the 12th game.

In the tiebreak, Al-Ghareeb took leads of 3-2, 4-3 and 5-4 but errors hounded him, allowing Taino to grab the next three points and the match after two hours and 31 minutes.



2 p.m.—JP vs Aleneo (Women's) 3:45 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Jrs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THIEVES STRUCK AND STOLE lots of valuables from the La Salle locker room.

On the court, it was the Junior Archers who pulled off a heist of sorts, stealing Game 1 from a fancied Ateneo five, 76-74, in Game 1 of the UAAP juniors basketball best-of-three finals last night at the Ninoy Aquino Stadi-

"So this is what happens to 'winning teams at Ninoy" said La Salle coach Boris Aldeguer, after Jinding out they were robbed.

Aldeguer commended the Junior Archers for upsetting the defending champions Blue Eagles and moving within a win of clinching the title

"Ateneo is a strong team," Aldeguer said. They're bigger and faster. Our only advantage is our heart. That's the only thing that carried us through."

throws with 199 seconds left off a Jayvee Durarique foul to seal the Junior Archers' first win in three encounters against the Raglets this season.

year (due to the suspension)," said Aldeguer. "But the good part was we started early with our preparation for this season."

Ateneo, though, prevailed in women's play as the Lady Eagles repulsed the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons, 64-60, in Game 1 of their own best-

decommissioned by

stomach problems,

to step up for an RP

return to Group I of

competitions. roundre

squad hoping to

Davis Cup

Eric Taino might have

Sarah Mercado and Amelica Barracoso paced the Lady Eagles

Marco Fortuna nailed two free

"We were never given a chance to defend our championship last

of-three title series.

with 15 markers each.



DBA AUTO EXCHANGE

WITH CHEST STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS 199 EDSA Brgy. Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City Southbound before SEC and POEA

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY)

'It's all about toughness'

3 p.m. Aleneo vs LST

is the one brimming with confidence.

the playoffs, that's where we do well)," said Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio on the eve of a do-or-die duel against an Ateneo squad that wasted a couple of opportunities to stay out of this dogfight.

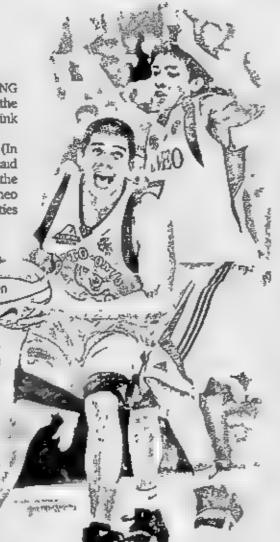
Don't credit Jarencio's bravado to pure machismo. This is, after all, UST, the unranked squad that pulled off an improbable UAAP title run last year.

The Tigers, who barely made it to the Final Four again this season, only need to don the familiar gold-andwhite to issue a painful reminder to the Ateneo Blue Eagles as they clash at the start of the men's baskerball stepladder semifinals.

there's no advantage or disadvantage," said Jarencio, whose Tigers stunned the favored Eagles in last year's title clash.

Araneta Coliseum will advance opposite the No. 2 La Salle Green Archers, who carry a twice-to-beat edge.

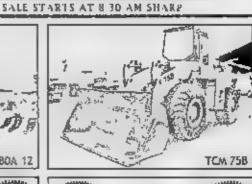
And the final victor in

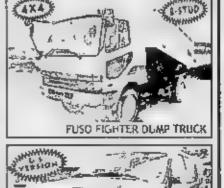




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as Eagles, Tigers collide

By Jasmine W. Payo

IN A TWIST THAT'S NOT AS SURPRISING considering where it's coming from, the team that has been teetering on the brink

"Basta playoffs dyan kamt matindi (In

"We're just ready; in the playoffs,

The winner of the 3 p.m. knockout match today at the

ITS/A22 JERVY Cruz will again be Ateneo's main concern.

SundaySPORTS

National club champions square off at Eagle Ridge

A TRIP TO SINGAPORE IS IN STORE Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. for the winners of the 2007 National Tournament Club of Champions (NTCC) where they will get the chance to watch the stars of the HSBC Women's Champions, one of the world's biggest compentions for women.

HSBC, INQUIRER GOLF and the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club are partpering again for the third year as copresenters of the 2007 NTCC on October 22-26 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and

For the three NTCC winners, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see some of the world's best women golfers compete for the coveted "Champion of Champions" title.

Winners of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour, leading money winners from the Japan Ladies Professional Golf Association (JLPGA), Korea Ladies Professional Golf Association (KLPGA) Tour, Ladses European sional Golf (ALPG), Duramed Futures Tour, Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT) and the top player from the continent of Africa will qualify to play in the HS-BC Women's Champions, making this one of the most presugious golf competitions in Asia.

The inaugural HSBC Women's Champions will give away US\$2 million in prizes (\$300,000 to the winner), the largest purse for a women's prestigious Tanah Merah Country Club ш Singapore.

On the local front, the NTCC, which has staged the mens' and ladies' competition for the past two years, has added two new events, the seniors division and the team competition. The team event results will be based on the collective performance of each participating club's entries.

Club champions as of May 1, 2007

Tour (LET), Australian Ladies Profes- event in Asia, and will be played at the are eligible to compete in the invitational tournament, but entries will be subject to the eligibility requirements of the NTCC.

> For inquiries on the NTCC, please call Jong Arcano or Chris Vida at 8978808 local 261 or contact your respective clubs. Details are also available at pilipinasgolf.com, the website of the country's two leading golf publications INQUIRER GOLF and Golf Digest Philippines.

ASIAN CHESS

Filipino bets back on track toughness' as Eagles,

By Roy Luarca

STANDINGS: 4.0 points-8. Megaranto (Ina): 3.5-Zhang Pengalang: 3.0-R. Antonio (RP), Li-Chao (China), Zhou Jianchao (China), G.N. Gopal (India)m A. Kunte (India), D. Layto (RP); 2.5-W. So (RP), U. Adianto (Ina). E. Moradiabadi (Galar), A. Fillpoy (Uzb), C. Deepan (India), TH Dao (Viet), S. Yang (Chna), P Negi (India) M. Paragua (RP)

CITY—INDONESIAN MANDAUE Grandmaster Susanto Megaranto hogged the limelight even as Filipino bets got back on track Saturday night in the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

The 20 year-old Megaranto humbled third seeded Chinese GM Wang Hao with the black pieces in their top board battle to notch his fourth straight win and assume top spot in the qualifying tournament for the World Cup in

GMs Rogelto "Joey" Antonio and Mark Paragua and International Masters Darwin Laylo and Wesley So lifted the sagging Philippine campaign by hurdling their fourth round rivals.

In a disadvantageous position, Antonio suddenly emerged the victor after Qatari IM Mohammed Al Sayed blundered away a rook in the 34th move of a Caro Kann.

Antonio and Laylo were the highest among the 19 Filipmo bets after yesterday's with 3.0 points.

Antonio, of the Philippine Army whose campaign here is being supported by boxing superstar Manny Pacround defeat to newly minted GM Inditention for his second stint in the world. Akopian.



AFTER claiming the scalp of top Filipino woodpushers, GM Susanto Megaranto continues to grab the spotlight. WWW.CHESSBASE.DE

championships.

Oriental Mindoro, reached the second quiso, thus rebounded from his third round in the Las Vegas edition of the annual event, yielding to Armenian Suan G.N. Gopal and put himself in con- per GM and eventual finalist Vladimir

Handling black, Paragua also capital-In 1999, the pride of Calapan City, rzed on a blunder by Indian IM Prasad Arun to prevail in 50 moves of a semi-Slav and rise to 2.5 points in the com-Mahjoobzardast in 20 moves of a Pirc Taiper's YuehWei Po.

The 13-year-old So, taking advantage of the framan's undeveloped queenside pieces, took a pawn with his From page A21 rook that would either lead to a mate or a winning position.

Laylo, seeing action in his first tournament after serving a six-month suspension slapped by the National Chess Federatin of the Philippines, defeated Mongolian Fide Master Tsegmed Batchuluun.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre also set tled for a draw against Chanese GM Zhou Weiqi and was lodged at 2.0 pounts in the company of local bets Kirn Steven Yap and IM Richard Bitoon, who was still tangling with Bangladeslu IM Enamul Hossain at presstime. Yap bowed to Chinese GM Xu Jun.

Indian IM G.N. Gopal, conqueror of Torre in Round 2 and Antonio in Round 3, is locked in a tight battle with Chinese GM Zhang Pengxiang. A victory will enable Gopal to catch up with Megaranto while a draw will put him at 3.5 points.

The third round turned out to be miserable for the Filipinos with Turin Olympians Antonio, Paragua, Laylo and So dropping their games and Torre and Dimakiling settling for draws.

Laylo bowed to Megaranto, Paragua yielded to China's Li Chao while So was beaten by Zhang Pengxiang.

Torre halved the point with Indian IM Prasad Arud and so did Damakiling with Iranian FM Mehrdad Ardeshi

Bittoon, Yap and Voltaire Sevillano provided some relief when they

stunned higher-rated opponents.

'It's all about Tigers collide

these senes of frenzied battles will face the University of the East Warnors, who earned the first championship benth as a bonus for winning all 14 assignments in the elimination

For Ateneo, the return trip to the Finals has taken a longer route because of its own doing. The Blue Eagles dropped to No. 3 after a surprise loss to National University in the final elimination day, followed by a heartbreaker to rival La Salle in a playoff for the No. 2 spot.

But coach Norman Black said his Eagles already brushed off the upsetting twin setbacks.

"Focus now is on UST," said Black. "Jervy Cruz is our number one concern. We have to keep him off the offensive boards and not let him dominate the paint."

Cruz, the Tigers' star center, leads the Most Valuable Player race after norming 16.7 points, a league-best 15.4 boards and 1.4 blocks per game.

But Black noted that the Eagles also have to contend with the Tigers' perimeter shooters.

"Their guards are quite big," he said. "{Dylan) Ababou, (Anthony) Esparitu, (Mark) Canlas, they have an assortment of guys there who have good shots."

And this reliable bunch keyed the Tigers' semifinal survival by eliminating the Par Eastem Tamaraws in a playoff for the No. 4 spot

UST routed Ateneo, 87-74, in the first round, but the Eagles scored sweet revenge in their next encounter when tookie guard Kirk Long buried a buzzer-beater for a 72-71 triumph.

"Iba ang usapan sa playoff (The playoff is a IM Ronald Bancod finally barged m- different story)," a usually cracking Jarencio pany of So, who posted the day's fastest to the win column after three straight said in a serious tone. "Tingnon notin ang tibay win by ripping Iranian IM Morteza defeats at the expense of Chinese nila, basta kami matibay kami (We're tough, let's see how tough they are)."

Ford Nomads rule beach football tilt

ball Club recently topped the 1st Rudy Project beach football Invitational tournament held in Playa Calatagan, Batangas.

Also bagging honors in the event that highlighted the Filfootball was Team Rudy Proladies' open division.

Kaya FC and Nike/DLSU-B finished second and third, respectively behind the Nomads while Sunday Inquirer/Alabang a beach community. Grins Jrs. and Rexona/Laguna Team Rudy Project

According to Playa Calatagan pacific.com.

TEAM FORD-NOMADS FOOT- project director Martin Caudal, the pristine white sand beaches of Playa Calatagan are perfect for a beach football tourna-

"Aside from being an ideal venue for beach-based sporting ipinos' growing passion for events, Playa Calatagan also offers other recreational activities ject/DLSU-A which bagged the for players and sports enthusiasts," said Caudal.

> The 92 hectare Playa Calatagan is the Philippines' first tourism estate designed around

Interested parties may call FC were runners-up behind 8500594 or 0920-9549688 or e-mail playacalatagan@fandco-

All set for Pacific poker

THE PACIFIC POKER PALACE Poker Palace Cup is everyday. Cup kicks off Sept. 29 with over port Casmo Filipino.

Palace said entry fee is P30,000 with one optional rebuy of P20,000.

Satellite games for the Pacific 8541305, 09202225939.

Dela Cruz said P100,000 P1 5 million at stake at the Air- tournaments is every Thursday and on 22. There will be Ben dela Cruz of Pacific Poker P50,000 tournaments every

> For inquiries, visit pacificpokerpalace.com or call 8338542,



CEREMONIAL BALL

Philippine Bowling Congress executive vice president Jame Dychauco touches off their 11th Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association tournament by rolling the cermonial ball. AUGUST DEACHE

Newcomers take centerstage at Sta. Ana Park

PROMISING NEWCOMERS, BOTH LOCAL and imported highlight today's rich race stakes for two-year-olds at the Sta. Ana Park.

General Onay heads the field in the P450,000 PCSO Special Maiden race, a 1,450-meter event for first-time starters previously known as the PCSO Sweepstakes Race.

Fresh off his victory in the PCSO Trail Race last Sept. 4, the "island born" galloper will race under the banner of businessmansportsman Hermie Esguerra.

Expected to provide a serious challenge for the top spot is Luna Rossa, an entry from the Jose Quiros Racing Stable by Conquistarose out of Siete Legues.

Others in the hunt for the P300,000 top pot are Twin Turbo, Fearless Ninz, Enjoyable, Aspirations and Sir Frederick.

Meanwhile, six up-and-coming twoyear-old imports from the US will get a chance to show their wares in the P800,000 Philracom Imported Stakes Race over 1.450-meters.

Weder Weder Lang from the US is expected to be highly-rated coming off a rousing debut performance over 900-meters two weeks ago at the same track.

The filly zipped the 900-meter distance in her first official start on local track.

Owned by Jan Micheal Santos and trained by veteran Jose "Bone" Fernandez, Weder Weder Lang can expect a good challenge from fellow US-bred Prolic, Chowder Head, Fierce Fighter, Brazhovic and Angel

LSGH spikers score

LA SALLE-GREEN HILLS CAME bracket A of this league supback strong in the second and third sets to beat Hope Christian School, 16-25, 25-13,25-12 Asics. in the Petron Treats Boys Volleyball League.

The win gave LSGH a 2-0

slate on bracket B.

San Sebastian College over-

ported by Shakey's, Toby's, Dunkin Donuts, Mikasa and

Claret School posted a 25-13 25-19 victory over St. Anthony to take a 4-1 record in bracket

University of the East powered Chiang Kai Shek, 25- whipped PIQC, 25-15 25 20, for 12, 25-13, giving it a 2-0 record a 4-0 slate in bracket B Marlon to tie Canossa Academy in Bernardino, Contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Tanamor, Tipon, Payla banner Ostrava squad

TWO-TIME OLYMPIAN HARRY TAÑAMOR AND DOHA AS AN GAMES gold medalists Joan Tipon and Violito Payla will spearhead the Philippine boxing team that will see see action in the Grand Prix Ostrava to be held in the Czech Republic's third largest city. The week-long slugfest to be participated in by top boxers from Europe and Asia will serve as training for the upcoming World Championships, according to Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Phil ppines.

Amateur boxers tangle in 30-match series

AT LEAST 60 AMATEUR BOXERS WILL FIGHT IT OUT IN 30 MATCHES when the PCSO Amateur Boxing Series kicks off its September schedule today at the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City Leading the field are Abap national pool members Bill Vicera, Michael Paragoso, Orlando Tacuyan Jr. and Joegen Ladon. Vicera squares off with Paragoso and Tactiyan Jr tang es with Ladon. The amateur boxing event will be featured at a later date on the weekly program, "Fistorama" over NBN-4

Pinoy Backyard Breeders group holds first derby

THE NEWLY-FORMED PINOY BACKYARD BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (PBBA) holds its first cockfight derby at the Cainta Fair Center Coliseum today. The special 3-stag derby beginning at 5 p.m. offers P300 000 to the winners. As bonus, a "fastest win" award worth P10,000 will also be handed out. The list of entries include Kabilang sa STCA Saknong, PR

Titans and Brian K entry. For more details, call 655-3334 Race 1-Pail (2), Wooders Miss (3) Dver (11), Royal King (10), Think Tank (12), Gobernationa (5), Eleversian Dweln (3)

White Olamond [1], Prime Zone (10), Grand Primer (5)

7 (10) Weder Weder Lang (1)
Brashove Angels wice (2) Chowdon Head (4)

ra. (a), Eubvertais Duebn (b)

Stace 3--(Brt/In) -- Spreamy Bullet (b), Cool Cato (3), Red

Hot Water (4), Striking Thunder (1)

Race 4--(PentarOnt/In) -- Happy Again (6), Collective Denams (7), Shy Gat/Mat Infuntam (6), Project Sta (1), Record Hodder (2)

Race 5--(Ort/In) -- Generat Onay (9), Fazzinas Mizz (3), Lunz Rosa (2), Yenn Tusto (5)

Race 6-- Just Decision (6) Fold Your Arms (6), Whate Charmond (1), Prime Zone (10), Grand

Reca 9—(Penta/On/Tr)—Lended Visa (6), Unleashed (1), How Showing (2), Quees Banana (5), Blue Shedd (4)

Race 16—(7a)—Arcis: Desert (5), Tooroombe (4),
Big Spender (1)

Race 15—Er Barbaro (5), Jeel Superb (2), Devil in

Race 6—(Pente/Drt/Frl)—Lord B-gene (10), Bathry Ganda (3), Run Lika D'Vrend (7), Marvia's Smde (8), Bachetor Of Arts (8)

Page 15—est official (3), and supera (2), been in Disgues (7). Super Shegari (4)
Reco 12—(Perna-Orffe)—Race A Dance (4), ingay ingay (8), dure O Spend (5), Limit Bran (2), Mac Cun Nace (7)
Reco 13—(Super 6/Orf/I/6)—Sa Walos (3), Danc-

ing Siew (11) I Don't Plance (4) Look Of a ove 16 Bed in Hund (5) Kulgatan (9)

ASSOCIATION AND ADDRESS.

SundaySports

Umbrellas trigger 'storm' in presscon

GMA-7 PUBLICity officer Bar-Atienza was still in a "good mood when I first talked to her early yesterday morning, just before scheduled a.m. "sendoff" conferpress



Beth Celis

ence for Manny Pacquiao.

Barbette, who used to cover the sports beat for print, said she had just arrived at Gourdo's, site of the presscon jointly hosted by GMA 7 and Solar Entertainment, who were also signing a contract that day for the television coverage of the Pacquiao Barrera fight in Las Vegas on Oct.

I promised Barbette I would show up, even if it was a column day and I would have to skip my 11 a.m. radio program.

However, just as I was getting ready to go, it started raining cats and dogs. I decided to abandon all plans of leaving the

After lunch, I called up Barbette for an update. This time, though, she no longer sounded cheerful. Usually an easygoing person, Barbette was very angry, exasperated and ready to wage

In between grunts and deep sighs, Barbette informed me that the "Will to Win" fight card would be aired live-well, almost, give or take a few minutes on radio and television.

Other scribes who attended said the presseon was really one big sendoff for Pacquiao.

The big story, according to one of the scribes, was that Barbette was mobbed by some guests over umbrellas.

The way I understand it, work for this presscon was divided between Solar and GMA 7 Solar was supposed to invite the sports media while GMA 7 took care of entertainment beat reporters.

What neither group had not expected was the appearance of gatecrashers - enthes who claim to be members of the media but are not. They present all sorts of fake IDs with strange sounding publication names at the reception desk.

But they usually manage to get into even the most exclusive media confe-

It's easy to spot them. They usually eat the equivalent of three meals in one sitting and make sure there are leftovers to stow away in a plastic bag.

If they're lucky, they even manage to extort some cash from VIPs. These entines are collectively called "haoshaos."

Anyway, when the "haoshiaos" saw that Barbette was giving away umbrellas to the media, they rushed over to her, each one demanding an umbreila from her, too.

Barbette, who by now is familiar with their faces, recognized them and

politely refused. All hell broke loose as the fake media people screamed and raved, leaving Barbette with no choice but to give each of the haoshiaos an umbrella. In exchange for her life.

No wonder Barbette was in a fighting mood when she got back to the office.

It was just like old times when I visited the PBA office in Libis last week.

Familiar faces like those of OIC Sonny Barrios and former legal counsel Butch Cleofe, who was also visiting, greeted me.

Sonny was busy preparing the budget for the 2007-2008 season that will be presented to the board during the first meeting in Macau, and the new playing rules which will have to be formally approved.

It's true that chair Tony Chua reports regularly at the PBA. He was there too, when I visited. Had his hands full with paperwork.

Incidentally, while Solar will produce the opening day extravaganza of the PBA this October, it will still be ABC 5 that will

Pacquiao a hot favorite

Odds still tilted towards Filipino boxing superstar

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES---IT'S UNUSUALLY COLD HERE, but scorehing odds favoring Manny Pacquiao to repeat over Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera in their next encounter have remained unchanged as the Filipino boxing superstar returns today to this charming capital where all the great things started for him

Trainer Nonoy Neri, who sidelines as nutritionist, went to Chinatown to get live native chucken, in place of the frozen grocery variety for Pacquiao's favorite tinola dinner; team assistant Alex Obero pitted the mattress with fresh linen, but there's no new movement over the betting windows where Pacquiao has remained an overwhelming minus-350 favorite.

Plainly put, the Sportsbook posting says a \$350 bet on Pacquiao would pay only \$100, while a hundred bucks on Barrera would yield \$250, with the money difference unchanged since Pacquiao last departed from here on Aug. 10.

Pacquiao, who has totalled 111 rounds of sparring in Cebu City, was declared hundred per cent ready by his

There's no scheduled Pacquiao activity here Sunday but he's set to resume full-blast training-e long morning jog and afternoon gym duties-Monday for the final push in preparation against the 33-year-old Barrera, who has been tipped to come at his fiercest best.

"Pacquiao has always been on my mind, an ugly thorn on my side," Barrera has been quoted as saying.

Passion for revenge

Barrera's consuming passion for revenge has become the main theme of the remarch and has helped build the fight into a sure blockbuster.

But based on the views of experts, not to mention the established facts. Barrera will have to ride on make-believe to convince himself he can turn the tables on Pacquiao, who knocked him out in Texas four years ago.

"Everything ready," fight teacher Eric Brown hollered from the counter of the Wild Card gym shortly before lunch vesterday.

There has been a hunger for Pacquiao here, where he has become the top attraction, as evidenced by the many calls asking about the date of his return.

The crafty, battle-scarred Barrera, tipped by Pacquiao as the hardest puncher of all Memcans he has fought, lost the WBC 130-lb. crown to Juan Manuel Marquez iast March

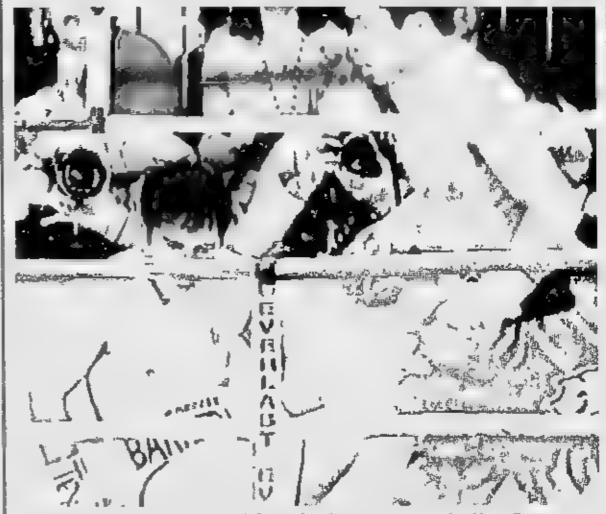
Pacquiao, for his part, had a tentative start, got cut with a headbutt, before jumping in to crush and stopthe unbeaten Jorge Solis in Texas last April.

Their careers had taken separate paths, and it took four years to arrange the remarch, during which Pacquiao moved onto a higher plain, both in skills and

But, without bothering to elaborate, Barrera swore he would report to the fight with renewed vigor and a special technique

Pacquiao kept mum but his trainer, Freddie Roach, went direct to the point about the core of their anti-

"We will make him work every minute of every



IF REPORTS coming out of Marco Antonio Barrera's training camp are true, then Manny Pacquiao should find his rematch going the same way as the first bout.

Barrera knocked out?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF REPORTS ARE ACCURATE ENOUGH, MANny Pacquiao should have no problem finishing off Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas two

The latest buzz out of the Mexican's camp could be ominous: Barrera was knocked out by a sparmate in Guadalajara, Mexico.

That was the report passed around during yesterday's send-off breakfast for Pacquiao at Gourdo's

He refused to comment about it, going his usual route and declaring that he will be 100 percent fully charged for his super featherweight rematch against the "Baby-Faced Assassin" on Oct. 7 at the

"Hindi notin alam kung ano ang mangyayan sa fight, pero sigurado akong gagawan ko ang lahat (I can't say what will happen in the fight except that I'll give it my best shot)," Pacquiao quipped flashing a smile that matched the shine of his gold Rolex

round," Roach told the Inquirer, while explaining Bar-

rera is incapable of peak performance for an entire

his secluded training camp in Guadalajara that could

restore the vigor in his legs, which disobeyed and failed

him in the closing rounds of his title defense against

Who knows? Maybe Barrera has found a potion in

wristwatch and diamond-stud earning.

At one point of the press conference, his imported sparring partners, Mexicans Sugar Ray Beltran and David Rodela, vouched for Pacquiao's preparedness, citing how the Filipino boxing icon's punches were like swings from a baseball bac-

"We still have 26 hellish rounds with him," said one of the sparmates who worked out with Pacquiao after the presscon at the Wild Card gym in

They were to join hun and trainer Freddie Roach late last night on a flight to the United States for the homestretch of his training. "He's my favorite fighter of all time," said Roach,

who also denied previous weeks' reports that he sent out spies at Barrera's camp.

"I don't have any spy. We don't need any spy," added the trainer.

Pacquiao knocked out Barrera in the 11th-round during their first date in November of 2003, a result that practically put the Filipino in the radar of megabuck fights.

Pall came a little early, a freakish storm sent temperatures dipping-from 100 degrees the other week to 60 degrees yesterday-but the weatherman said Monday would be mild and sunny perfect for Pacquiao when he runs in the morning, before driving to the gym in his black XL550 Mercedes two-seater, which was given the check-up and a four-mile test drive through cold, drizzly streets here.

Lascuña eyes Fortis slot

KUALA LIMPUR-TONY LASCUÑA IS HO- in the Iskandar John Open last month. ping a return to his lavorite hunting ground will bolster the Philippines' hopes in the Fortis International Challenge at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club next week.

Lascuña will partner Gerald Rosales and bid for one of five tickets at stake to the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in in recent times where he was also tied third in November against 19 other two-man nations from Asia, Europe and Africa.

A return to Malaysia will bring happy memories as Lascuña triumphed in a local event earlier this year and then finished runner-up

three-minute round.

"I believe in my partner Gerald as he has a very good game and I am confident we can go on to qualify for China," said Lascuña, who was unsuccessful in his first qualifying campaign in 2000.

Lascuña has produced some sparkling golf the Brunei Open earlier this month.

Now that he has virtually sealed his top-60 place on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit which will give him full playing rights for the



Interschool kart race listing slated

AFTER DRAWING A HUGE FIELD OF gories—the team endurance race entries at La Salle last week, the registration for the 3rd TRS Interschool Kartfest moves on to the College of St. Bezulde this week from Sept. 24

The students may enter as a team of six at the registration booths that will be set up in various schools and malls for the event organized by Tuason Racing School (TRS).

The compension has two cate- where students can represent their info@ruasonracing.com.

and the individual sprint race. The endurance teams that achieve the best lap times will represent their school and advance to the finals where they will go head-to-head with the other school teams in a two-hour race. The fastest karters from each school will battle in a 10lap sprint race

The Interschool Kartfest is a site

school in an event where sportsmanship, camaraderie and team spirit are in play.

Other participating schools include St. Benilde, Ateneo, Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Don Bosco Makati, San Beda Alabang, Kalayaan College, Mapua, UP, Asia Pacific College, and University of Asia & the Pacific.

For details, call 8177795 or email

RP Int'l golf show starts next month

LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS OF THE WORLD'S biggest brands in golf will join the 12th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 19-21 at Megatrade Hall 2, Level 5, Bldg B of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Close to fifty companies involved in the distribution of golf products as well as service providers and media entities are purting their new lines on display before another expected banner audience.

"There's no more space available and we're ready to go," declared Gerald Raymundo, President of the organizer, Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines and Golf Show Chairman Ana Herrera.

Sponsors are pouring in with the special participation of the world-renowned American Eye Center as silver sponsor and Revicon Max, Metrobank Platinum and Megatrade Hall as bronze sponsors.

Media partners are Solar Sports Network, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INQUIRER GOLF Magazine and Golf Digest Philippines. Inquiner Gourand Golf Digest are also launching their joint website, pilipinasgolf.com, during the show. For details call 8451324 or visit golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

PARTICIPATING DISTRIBUTORS: Acro Industrial Development & Construction, Astra Enterprises, Atendido Marketing, Besa's Shoes, Duniop Stazenger, Electrobus Consolidated., Galner's Marketing, Golf King, Gotipro International, Kart Plaza, Pacsports Philippines, Raymundo's Trophies, Transview Gotf, WS Sports, Business Handlers Marketing, Capital Gainers, Dynamic Sports, Pliness First, G & W Clubshares, GG & A Ctub Shares Brokers, GT Turtworks, Global Brands, Malayslan Tourism Board, Nam's Golf, New Smart Formulae Tracing, Pacific Sports Network (Tayformade), Pageor, PGA Tours, Philippine Tourism Authority Philyantures Marketing (Nivea), Rudy Project and Thunderbird Resorts.



MIKE Casimiro breezes through a practice round.

Casimiro joins Italy event

MIKE CASIMIRO OF 02KART RACING WILL Seniors bet to the 2007 ROK World Cup set Oct. 11-14, at the South Garda Karting Track

Casimiro was chosen after emerging the current overall leader in the ROK Seniors division of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship. Teammate Ken Monzones will be joining him in Italy after placing second overall in the ongoing 2007 Shell Helix Super Karting

"We're eyeing at least a podium finish," said be leaving for Italy as the Philippines' ROK Casamiro. "It's a big challenge going up against more experienced rivals. This is a fight for the national flag and we'll do our best."

Aside from being the Asian Karting Open Rok Seniors leader, Casimiro continues to preserve his grip of solo leadership in the Shell Helix Super Karung Series.

Casimiro is also thard overall in the premiere Formula 125 Seniors Open behind the frontrunning Stefano Marcelo and the secand running Matteo Guidicelli.



BARRY Bonds will leave his heart in San Francisco, and nothing else. After surpassing Hank Aaron's homerum record, Bonds bid farewell to the Giants, saying the team asked him to leave.

SF Giants say goodbye to Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS is finished in San Francisco.

The Giants told Bonds they will not bring him back next season, ending an era in which he became the career home run champion and a lightning rod for the steroids debate in baseball.

"It's always difficult to say goodbye," Giants owner Peter Magowan said Friday. "There comes a time when, I think, you have to move in a different direction."

On his website, Bonds said he wasn't done.

"There is more baseball in me and I plan on continuing my career. My quest for a World Senes ring continues," he said.

Magowan told Bonds in person Thursday night.

"I think he knew the decision was coming. I don't think it was surprising to him. I think, naturally, he was disappointed," Magowan said.

players of all time. And it was a great advantage to have a player of his caliber on our team for all those years."

Aaron's record with his 756th home run on Aug. 7. Bonds has spent the past 15 seasons of his 22-year big league career with the Giants, and signed a \$15.8 milbon, one-year contract for this season.

But he hasn't played since Sept. 15 because of a sprained right big toe, and he wasn't in the Giants' lineup Thursday night for the opener of what probably Francisco, which signed him as a free or NL team," he said agent in December 1992.

Shadowed by steroid speculation for the past few years, Bonds has hit 28 homers this season, raising his career total to 762. The seven-time NL MVP was batting .279 with 66 RBIs.

Prior to the toe injury, he had been mons of steroid abuse. "I do believe he's the greatest player mostly healthy, playing 125 games go-

of his generation, one of the greatest ang into this weekend. The left fielder for Bonds' historic 756th home run has had 2,935 career, hits before Friday night's game against Cincinnati.

Despite Bonds' personal achieve-The 43-year-old Bonds broke Hank ments, the season has been a disappointing one for the Giants, who are mired deep in last place in the NL West.

"We've heard for a long time that the Giants are an old team and want to get younger, so we're not surprised," said Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris. "Barry is their oldest player, but qualitatively, he's their best player."

"He's still planning on playing next will be his final homestand with San year, irrespective of whether it's an AL

> Bonds has long denied using performance-enhancing drugs, but fans across the country have greeted him with placards inscribed with asterisks-baseball fan shorthand for the belief that his record is hopelessly tanned by allega-

Even the person who paid \$752,467

threatened to stamp it with an asterisk.

In a statement, Bonds said he believes DOPING FALLOUT the Giants made the decision long ago not to bring him back for next season.

"Although I am disappointed, I've always said baseball is a business, and I respect their decision," Bonds said. "However, I am saddened and upset that I was not given an earlier opportunity to properly say goodbye to you, my fans, and celebrate with the city throughout the season as I muly believe this was not a last-minute decision by the Giants, but one that was made some time ago."

Bonds had said he wanted to finish his career in the comfort of his hometown, where his father, Bobby, played alongside his godfather, Willie Mays.

T would have loved nothing more than to retire as a Giant in the place where I call home and have shared so many momentous moments with all of you," he said.

UCI names Pereiro new Tour champ

PARIS-OSCAR PEREIRO IS OFFICIALLY the champion of the 2006 Tour de France.

The UCI, cycling's governing body, declared the Spanish cyclist the winner Friday, after arbitrators upheld results of a test that showed Floyd Landis, who had finished first, used synthetic testosterone.

"Following the decision of the competent American authority to sanction the American cyclist Floyd Landis for doping, and in accordance with the International Cycling Umons regulation, the Spanish rider Oscar Pereiro is declared winner of the 2006 Tour de France," the statement said.

"The UCI has informed both the rider and the organizer of the event."

But Tour de France organizers say Pereiro will not get his crown quite yet—until it becomes clear whether Landis will appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He has a month to do so.

'Oscar Pereiro will be the winner of the 2006 Tour as soon as all the appeal procedures will be over," Christian Prudhomme, the Tour de France race director, told Associated Press Television News.

"We feel a bit like Oscar Pereiro, who said himself that he would have preferred to have won under different circumstances,"

Prudhomme said. The decision by arbitrators means Landis, who repeatedly has denied using performance-enhancing drugs, is also subject to a two-year ban, retroactive to Jan. 30.

The Landis case has dragged on for 14 months, and Prudhomme said he hoped cyching authorities would learn to handle such cases more quickly.

Utah Jazz, Kirilenko part ways

ward Andrei Kirilenko is set to walk away from \$63 million remaining on his NBA, the Salt Lake Tribune re-

ported Friday.

SALT LAKE CITY--UTAH JAZZ FOR- the NBA and would most like to play in Moscow, leaving behind his big-money deal for his borneland.

"I am prepared to go without it," the Tribune quotes Kirilenko as say-After translating an interview ing. "This is a lot of money, even for given to Russia's Sport Express an NBA club. So what? Maybe this newspaper, the Tribune reported money could go to pay for more Kirilenko said he is ready to leave players or for something else.

"I have never been unfair and I don't want to enjoy something that I don't deserve. Big money is obviously good but I'm prepared to make less. The size of my salary doesn't mean that much to me. The main thing is to play with a spark.

need to leave Utah Jazz." AFP



"I am ready for anything. I just THERE will be no title celebrations between Andrei Kirilenko and the Jazz.

Jankovic snaps Davenport's comeback streak

the eight-match Asian win streak of Lindsay Davenport, halting the American's career comeback, 6-3, 7-5, to reach the final of the China Open on Saturday.

The semifinal victory provided sweet revenge for the Serb second seed, who came up short in an ill-tempered quar terfinal to the 31-year-old Californian in Bali eight days ago, an event Davenport went on to win.

BELJING-JELENA JANKOVIC ENDED against Davenport after four defeats and ing to herself this month that she still now stands just one win from her fifth has the game to compete with the elite title of the season.

> The second seed will play on Sunday against the winner from Hungarian sixth seed Agnes Szavay and China's last hope Peng Shuai, competing in a semifinal at home for the second year in suc-

Jankovic earned her first victory three-month-old son Jagger after prov- her to return to the court.

on the WTA.

The three-time grand slam winner retired after Beijing a year ago, ready to devote time to starting a family By the time she gave birth last June, she was ready to give her sport another try.

By all accounts, her Bali title last However Davenport will return more weekend—the 52nd of her career—and than satisfied to California with her this week in Berjing will have convinced

She has said she will play a final event this season in Quebec, Canada, before making a decision about whether to resume her career from early 2008.

Jankovic had to fight to get the job done at the Berjing tennis center in a second set littered with service breaks in six of the last eight games.

The 22-year-old Serb finally closed out the win in 90 minutes after losing her own serve four times and breaking Davemport on six occasions.



FEDERER

Federer, Roddick, Djokovic hammer out victories many rallied Finday to ensure their Davis Cup semifinal matches

Thomas Johansson beat James Blake to put Sweden even at 1-1 in its best-of-five series against the visiting United States, and Philipp Kohlschreiber did the same for Germany against 7-5.

defending champion Russta by defeating fourthranked Nikolay Davydenko.

In the Davis Cup playoffs, Roger Federer earned a point for Switzerland at the Czech Republic, Nohis final competitive singles

valt Djokovic did the same for Serbia against Australia, and Ton Henman won what could be match to help Britain take a 2-0 lead over Croatia. The Americans,

who own a record

31 Davis Cup titles,

LONDON-SWEDEN AND GER- Andy Roddick beat Joachim Johansson year's World Group on the line. 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in Goteborg. But Thomas Johansson pulled a point back by defeating Blake 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Russia got its first point in the opening match, with Igor Andreev beating Tommy Haas 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. Kohlschreiber then gave the Germans a point by defeating Davydenko 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2, 4-6,

Roddick broke Joachim Johansson for the only time in the match to lead 4-3 in the third set. The American, who finished with 30 aces, then held at love for the 11th time to close out the match. Johansson had 23 aces.

Thomas Johansson, a former Australian Open champion, broke Blake's serve on his second break point to lead 3-1 in the fourth set. That was all he needed, holding his serve the rest of the

Davydenko had a chance to lead 5-2 in the third set but he wasted three break points. After holding serve in that game, Kohlschreiber broke the Russian in the next to get back to 4-4.

Federer, making his 2007 debut in the Davis Cup, beat Radek Stepanek, 6-3, 6took a 1-0 lead when 2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), with a spot in next singles match.

"It was a very tough match in the end, but it did not look it at the beginning,' Federer said.

Tomas Berdych made it 1-1 for the Czechs by beating Stanislas Wawrinka, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 7-5.

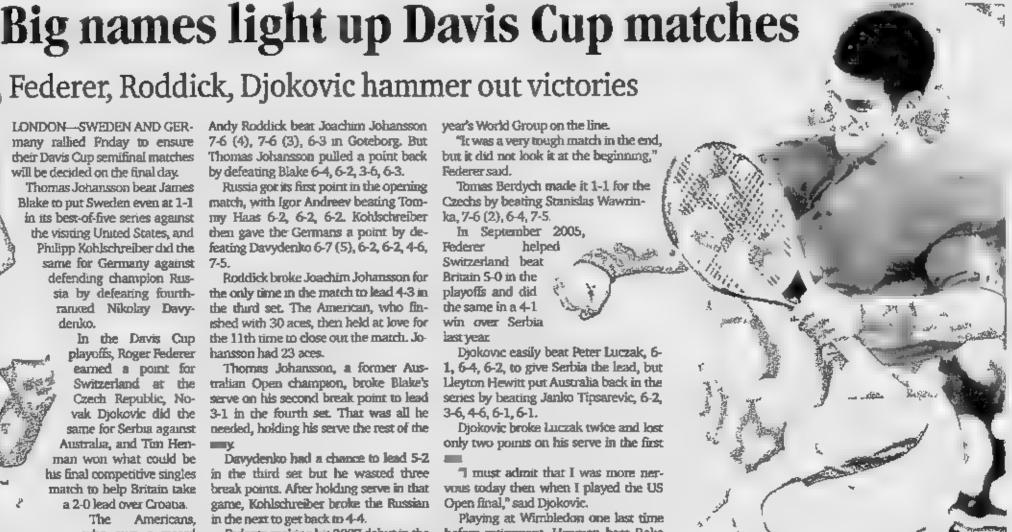
In September 2005, **Federer** helped Switzerland beat Britain 5-0 in the playoffs and did the same in a 4-1 win over Serbia

Djokovic easily beat Peter Luczak, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2, to give Serbia the lead, but Lleyton Hewitt put Australia back in the series by beating Janko Tipsarevic, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Djokovic broke Luczak twice and lost only two points on his serve in the first

I must admit that I was more pervous today then when I played the US Open final," said Djokovic.

Playing at Wimbledon one last time before retirement, Heruman beat Roko Karanusic, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, in the second



DJOKOVIC: More nervous than in US Open.

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At 70, 'lolo' trader won't call it q

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHAT ARE 70-YEAR-OLDS SUPPOSED TO

A lot of people would say that they should have stopped working at 65.

But others think otherwise. One of them is Edilberto B. Bravo who, at 70, is very much into

"This is my passion. I FIRST JOB don't do it because I want another car I help people. I provide jobs, " says Bravo, chair of U-Bix Corp., the distributor of

Konica Minoka copiers in the Philippenes.

"Bert," as he is more known, employs over 4,000 people. He cofounded U-Bix Corp. with Enrique Belo, the father of farned aposuction surgeon Vido Belo. But he also owns Service Masters, a 10-year-old janitorial services and custodial work firm that employs 3,200 people.

No slowdown

He also owns Grappa's, the Italian restaurant, which he set up simply "because I love food."

And last Aug. 1, he acquired the Kodak Imaging Center Philippines. Bravo definitely has no plans of slowing down.



WITH wife, Fei, daughter-in-law Sarah (left), granddaughter Bianca, daughter Mary Ann and granddaughter Lara

Edilberto Bravo should be enjoying his

retirement. Instead, he intends to continue working and

providing

jobs

He has renamed KiC into the U-Bix Data Cen- to put up a small business supplyter and plans to be aggressive in the business process services. With 350 employees, Bravo wants to grow this business from its current levels of about P120 million.

He also plans to expand the Center to serve foreign clients. What it does is provide microfilming, document scanning, database creation and management, and offshore encoding and data entry.

U-Bix is one of the top three providers of essential mail printing and letter shopping. What this means is it generates credit card statements, which are printed in huge volumes, but each is different from the other. The same goes for phone bills.

On the scanning side, there remains a huge amount of documents that need to be converted. into film or digital forms. This provides a big opportunity for the data center.

Humble beginnings

Bravo did not start out as a businessman.

After growing up in Capiz, he went to Marula for his law degree in the University of the Philippines. His parents were public school teachers in his hometown.

After law school he joined the law firm of Ponce Enrile (father of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile) but after a few years, he ventured into the business world and was accepted in the Citibank Executive Training, which counts among its graduates many past bank presidents such as the late Rafael Buenaventura. Edward Go and Xavier Lomaz.



BRAVO inspects a new Konica Minolta copier machine

ing Fuji photocopy paper to companses where his friends worked.

He says he capitalized this with P5,000 but left the task of managing the firm to his wife, Felina Aidema, as he was working fulltime with the bank.

Initially, he was supplying Fuji Xerox paper. But when the Japanese took over the firm, he was left in the cold as the firm now went direct to the chents. A few years later, in 1972, he decided to pursue the business, becoming the exclusive distributor for Konica Minolta printers and copiers.

He partnered with Belo who also came from Capiz and set up U-Box for P50,000.

irony in business

U-Bix grew: Today it has 22,000 machines leased out all over the country. The irony of it, he says, is that despite the advances in technology and all the buzz about going paperless, people still need photocopiers.

He says the copying business has grown from about P100 million 12 years ago to a billion peso sector today.

Bravo says color made the difference. With color copiers, businesses want their reports and presentations in color. With a P10 difference in a page of black and white and color copies, this still spells our big business.

Bravo is not stopping any time soon.

He says his being a lawyer helped him in his path to entrepreneurship.

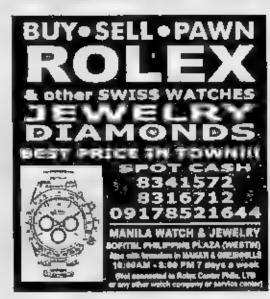
"The UP Law School disciplines you to focus and to think of the point of view of the opponent. When you become a businessman you see things from the other person's perspective," he said.

His current preoccupation is building a golf course (he is a big golf player) in the province. Guided for the past 20 years by a spiritual directog some of his friends had targed him to build a chapel in the place. He did.

He feels his way of paying back is employing more people. "I love Service Masters-look at the number of people who earn from me."



BRAVO with granddaughter Bianca



7-Eleven opens doors to young entrepreneurs, early retirees

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORP, THE LICENSOR of world-renowned 7-Eleven, once again re-invents the franchising system that opens the door for early retirees and budding entrepreneurs and take part in the highly successful 24-hour convenience store business.

Dubbed the service agreement system, the revamped scheme introduces a more affordable way for interested franchisees to become

part of the 7-Eleven family. "With the service agreement, the operator functions as a store manager, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the store, aside from having a stake in the success of the business," said Aimee Lim,

PSC franchise division public relations spokesper-

Lim said the investment requirement of the service agreement system ranges from a low of P700,000 to about P1.5 million, depending on the store's historical performance. This makes the franchise option less costly than PSC's full franpackages, along with the advantage of acquiring a store that already has a historical track record of sales and performance.

"The service agreement model is more affordable since they only have to shell out a fraction of the cost of a full franchise, but they still get to operate a world-class brand coupled with Support systems that made PSC number one in the convenience store industry for 25 years" Lim added.

Under the service agreement, franchisees will get 40-percent share of the profit with the rest of the pie going to the

Cost of store operations will also be shared between the two parties, with PSC handling merchandise cost, 60 percent of electricity and the monthly rent of the store while the franchisee takes care of operating

7 Eleven is available for franchise in La Union, Baguio, Olongapo, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Cavite, and Metro Manda. For inquiries, call 726-9968, 0920-9508651 or visit www.7-eleven.com.ph.

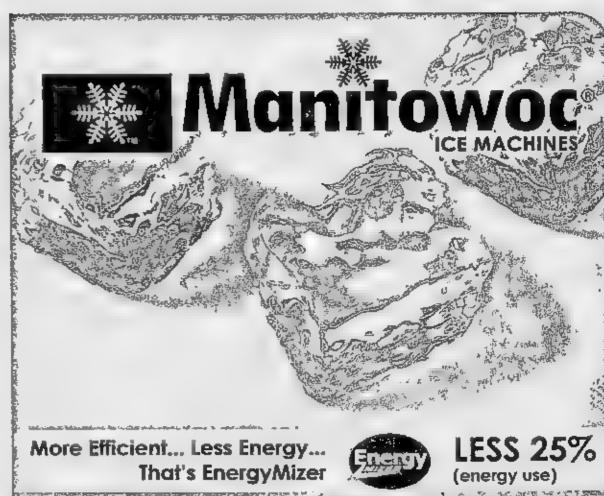


	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

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SAM, GSC321 HOUSE & LOT LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm. (Near Cambridge Hotel and Restaurent) MANANSALA SUBD. Brgy Sen indro, Min. Bid Price;P3,412,450

LA, 350 tigm (back of Horizin Tin Carl) DON GASRIEL SUSD .Bo. of Tambler Mbn. Bid Price. P305,000

SAM GSC324 COMM'L LOT W/ STALL LA 600 sqm FA 18 sqm (front of Phelo Grande Convention) NATIONAL HIGHWAY Min. Bld P4ca;P2,550,000

SAM, GSC326 INDIL LOT LA. 10,304 som., BO: OF TAMBLER (MCL. Rd.) Min. Sto Price:P 2.189,600

SAM_GSC327 RSD'L VACANT LOT .A. 10,000 sqm. NATIONAL, HIGHWAY Broy: Sinsons Min, Big Price: P3,406,000

SAM, GSC330 RSDL LOT LA 457 sqm Innar Gon, San City Terminal, BULAONG SUBD. Declanges North

Min. Bid Price:P914,000 SAM GSC331 RSDL JOT LA 5,000 sqm (near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)

Brgy Rd Purek t8, AGAO Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000 SAM GSC332 HOUSE & LOT LA 596 sqm FA 103 sqm Bluefin cor. Goldhish Sta. ESPINA SUBD Purok Mau CSS Brgy Lobersjalineai SSS) Mirt. Bid Prica: P893.775

SAM, GSC334 R5DL LOT LA 749 sym(neis Pacheco Subd.) AGUINO SUBD. Purok Kauntean Brgy, Ser Island Mer Bid Book P Bid Price:P638,550

SAM GSC335 COMMS LOT A 274 sqm FA 274 sqm (fronting Notre Dame of Declanges Units) NATIONAL HIGHWAY Mid. Bid Price: P3.493,500

SAM_GSC338 RSDL LOTS A 2,061 som. Zone 2-B. Bulls Min. Bld Price: P1,224,909

SAM_OSC338 COMMIL LOT LA 178 sqm. Fronting former Baylront Noocille House P. Acharon Blvd. cor Salazar & P. Acharon Blvd. Acharon Blvd. Cor. REGYEADIANEAS SOUTH Veteraris Sta. BRIGY DADIANGAS SOUTH

SAM_GSC341 COMMILLOT LA 1.109 som CALUMPANG AVE, Celumpang Min. Bird Price:P4,092,559

SAM GSC343 AGRILOT LA 20,283 sqm, Packing One. SLAUGHTER HOUSE AD. Min. Bid Price:P1 724,905

SAM GSC344 RSDL LOT LA 594 som (near Gan San Cockpil Avera) National Highway, 80 OF APUPONG Min. Bid Price PS48,880

SAM GSC345 HOUSE & LOT A 389 som FA 161 som (near Notice Dome College) Balagtas Street, 60 DADIANGAS Min. 8ts Price:P1,155,967

SAM, GSC346 HOUSE & LOT

LA. 425 som. Delandor St. win DADIANGAS HTS. Min. Bid Phoe: P745,035

SAM GSC348 HOUSE & LOT LA 451 som FA 248 som (motors away from Desmark Motors) ROXAS ST (near SSS) Min. Bid Prior: P7,291,373 SAM GSC350 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV*T

A 3,303 sgm FA 830 sgm. (nea Medicz Pension Jazz Houlid) MORALES SUBD. Bo Lagao Min. Bid Price:P4,138,501

SAM GSC351 HOUSE & LOT LA 645 som FA 194 som ROSAS ST Min. Bid Price:P2,768,875

SAM GSC352 HOUSE & LOT LA 478 sqm FA 22 acgn (near Alphine Subd.) AVILA SUBD Brgy San Midro, Luguo Min. Bid Price: P 64 ,296

SAM GSC353 AGRILLOT A 76.229 sqm/Near St. Peter Chapely Lanton 80 OF SINAWAL

Min. Bis Price: P10,270,031 SAM GSC355 INDO'L LOT A 8,663 sqm. Inter MGTX Fishing Industry BO OF TAMBLER Min. Bid Price P7 188,827

SAM GSC356 HOUSE & JOT pear Eduard Coccumber) Purok San Vicente ESPINA

BAM, GSC368 WD1, LOT LA 20,000 som. BO: OF TAMBLER Mn. Bio Price:P4,250,000

SAM GSC358 RSD1, LOT LA 400 somewear Holy Cross Perleh) CATAPANG HTS SUBD Birgs Calumping Min. Bid Price: P340,000 Show money P25.000 cash or Managera Check per property payable to STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS, INC. All

properties for sele are on "as is where is" basis. Properties are

subject to change without prior notice. The OWNER reserves the

right at anytime to pull out, to correct errors to prices, terms, details

& status of the properties in the event descrepancies are found.

SAM, GSC381 HOUSE & LOT LA 302 sqm FA 70 sqm Mangistan St. BRGY, DADIANGAS NORTH Min. Bld Price: P1,220,816

SAM_GBC386 SUBD. LCTS w/ MAPRYT

A 8, 586 sqm FA 1 700 agris
[Near Iglesia NI Cristo]

CELLARY SUBD. Broy Bulls

Min. Bid Price:P12,078,196

LA 199 sgm FA 123 sgm PUROK BAGONG SKANG Laborgal Min, Bid Price: P422,875

SAM_GSC387 WHOLE SUBD. W/O OFVELOPMENT SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES, Consi Aged (hear with Broyk Marker)
Lot Area.
4.80° sqm. (5 lobs)
B8, 441 sqm. (5 lobs)
P 20.00.000
P 29.087 425
97,474 sqm.(4 lots)
P 41,246,000

SAM, GSC370 HOUSE & LOY LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm Mangustan St. BRGY, DADIANISAS NORTH

Min. Bid Price: P1,882,240 SAM, GSC373 AGRI LOT A 11,694 som. (Near Shrineville

Subdi Farm Road, BRGY LAGAO Min. Bid PricesP2,981,970 SAM GSCABB IND'L LOT

LA. 16,248 SQITL NAT'L HIGHWAY CALUMPANG, Brgy Makor Min. Bid Price: P41,883,580

SAM GSC467 IND1. LOT LA 13,544 son: Maker-Squil Rd., New Bohol, CALUMPANG Min. Bid Price: P18,660,008

SAM GSC458 COMMILLOT LA, 206,346 sqm Bo. Lamcenal, MALANDAG Min. Bid Price: P7,539,163

TAGUM Text 09267566746

SAM_TGM411 AGRUJOT LA 4, 326 som Riser Univ of Southeastern Phill) Brigy Apolica: PUROK V Mar. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM TGM415 INDS1, LOT CA 6,000 som (Near San Vicente Ferrer Chaptel) APOKON Min. Bid Price:P4,080,000

SAM_TGM423_RSD/L_(B_DG, LA 225 sgm FA 172 sgm (Near Queen of Apostle Seminary) Prk_Sampaguris Rd. 1 MAGUIGPO WEST Min. Bid Price;P478,125

SAM_TGM428 AGRI PICEMILL LA 1, 757 sgm. PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabengen, Ján, Bid Price:P1,463,450

SAM_TGM429 25TRY HOUSE & LOT LA 500 sgm. FA 240 sgm. PURCK PAG-ASA, Pagsabergen, Man Rid Price Pt 497 450

SAM YOMES! AGREDIAN! AND LA 23, 441 som frear UM freum Col.) VISAYAN VILLAGE

Min. Bid Price:P5,973,898 SAM_TGM434_HOUSE & LOT LA 181 som FA 38 som. [Near Apokon Brgy Hall] GENMAY VILLAGE, Apokon Min. Bid Price: P265,750

SAM TGM438 HOUSE & LOT

LA 1,000 som MEL VILLAGE, Brgy, Visayan Villaga Min. Bid Price: 22,407,554

SAM **GM437 COMMPL LOT Outanin if St. PRIX. LAPU-LAPU, Magugootneer JVC,back of JS (assano) Lot Area Min. 8kd Price 3,001 sgm. P 25 508 500 1 848 sym. P 8 509 500 P 25 508 500 P 8,995,500

SAM TOM438 RSDL LOT LA 450 som (Near Methodist Church) PAGSABANGAN Mrs. 8id Price: P573,750

SAM_TGM440 RSD/L LOT LA 3.000 som [New Life Ministryes Chapel] PUROK ORANGE VALLEY Maguspo South Min. Bat Price: P6,375,000

SAM TGM448 RSD't, LOT LA 556 sgm (meters away from Delsay Gante Rd., PUROK VIPATIL NBr. Bid Price:P378,080

SAM_TGM450 RSC*L*COMM*L BLDG LA 379 som FA 514 som SOBRECAREV ST. Min. Bid Price:PS,108,117

SAM, TGM455 HOUSE & LOT LA 7 456 som FA 106 som (near YBC Storal DOMINGO SUBOL, Magagoo Peblitogra Poblacion Mrs. Bid Price: P6,337,808

SAM, TGM458 AGRILLOT LA 3, 827 som (Near Nichols Homes Subd.) Purok Bus, VISAYAN VILL, Min. 8td Pros. P1,301,180

SAM_TGM480 RSDL_COT LA 477 som (near DANECO Office) Brz Distinct MAGUGPO EAST, Min. Bid Price:P1,013,626

SAM_TGM463 RSD1. LQT A 300 som /ear Magsanoc Vill.) PUROK ABACA, Brgy Manistern Mrs. Bid Price:P382,500

SAM, TGM484 RSD1, LOT LA 250 som. (Near Phil Bemovotent Missionary) SENAGOTE VILL Magugoo East, Min. Bid Price, P531, 250

SAM_FGM469 HOUSE & LOF LA 252 sgm FA 14 sgm Over Brg. Hell w/n Gentint Villegel GEMINI VIL... Brgy Apoken Nan. Bid Price:P405,750

SAM TGM470 COMMIL BLDG LA 18, 830 sqm FA 2 +17 sqm (near First Consolidated Bard) PAGSARANGAN RD Brgy Mandam, Min. Bio Price: P22,609,859

SAM_TGM476 HOUSE & LOT A 400 sqm FA 315 sqm. (near visayen Bern, Sch.) Purok Pemera, VISAYAN VALLAGE

SAM TGM477 HOUSE & LOT Purok Palmers, VISAYAN VILLAGE (near Visayan Etem Sch.) Fix Area Alin, Bld Prices 400scm 192sqm 1,616,713 2,265,250 1,065sqm

4,968,250

400sqm SAM TOMAS! RSD% JOT VISAYAN WILLAGE (noer Wasyan Blans, Sch.) Lol Area Men. Bld Price 9,582,500 2,526,500 1,236 squ. 3,213,000 1,648sam 3,502,000

Lot Area

2,336 som.

7,014sqm.

SAM, YGRAGEZ AGEI LOT LA 12 550 styrk. free Clauso Inge Sical Cocloit Arms BRGY, CANCCOTAN Min. Bld Price, P2, 138,600

SAM TOMOM RSD'L LOT LA 400 sqm (meters away from Christ the tong Crapet) Sueybaguro Road, SRGY LA FORTUNA Min. Bid Price:P431,123

SAM TOMASS REDU LOT LA 2, 119 sqm. Purok Mainawon, MAGUGPO EAST, Mr. Bis Price: P4,502,675

SAM_TOMMED AGRILLOT LA 62,900 som. BPGY CANOCOTAN (San Isides) Inser Sical Coclost Arena) Min. Bid Price:P21,385,000

SAM TOMASS 12 RSD/L LOTS

LA 15.610 som Purok Cacao, VISAYAN VILLAGE Min. Bid Prior: P6,634,250 SAM TGM497 RSDL LOT W/IMPVT LA 24 022 sgm - FA 1 062 sgm. Tegum-Kapeloro, Provincial Rd., BRGY PAGSABANGAN

Man. Biol Price: P20,418,700

CAGAYAN DE ORO Text 09217388885

SAM CDO215 RSOLLOT LA 2,590 sqm. (200 meters (may from Cagayan De Oro Oil Company) BRGY, AGUSAN Min. Bit Price: P777.000

SAM, COO 216 PISON LOT UA 413 squi Remonote Valez St., APOVEL SUSD., Butua District Mo. Sid Prior: P935,000

SAM, CDO2*7 RSDL LOT LA 765 sqm. (near Dity Engineering Old FARRLANE SUBD Kauswagan Mirr. But Price: P645,000

SAM CDO220 RSOLLOT ERGY CARMENCHEM NIA Office)
Lot Area Min. Bid Price
800 sqrn. P 262 925
1,400.10 sqrn. P 446.212 SAM_CDC221 AGRILOT

.A. 28,907 state. (near Women's Day's Center) BRGY CANIFO-AN Mrs. 8kd Price.P3,685,643

SAM CD0225 RSDL LDT LA. 500 som. (mide Agept Dileo Sobd.) Thassic, MACASANDIG

SAM COOZZY COMMIL LOT LA 442 som (adjacent to Xinder Unit.) HAYES ST POBLACION Min. Bid Price.P4,763,913

SAM CD0226 COMMIT. LOT MAKAHAMBUS Burgos St. Pob. (Neer Fath Taberracia Chart) Lot Area Min. Bid Price P 1,794,000 P 3,177,000 618 som

SAM_COO230 COMMIL BLDG. .A. 305 sqm. FA 406 sqm. (knoting Ma. Rayna Hospital) Arch & Hayes St Ext BRGY CAMAMAN-AN

Min. Bid Price: P3.298.084 SAM_CDC231 AGRI LOT LA 47.975 sqm. (neer Catanico Bern, Schil) Cannaco SINCHOP DIST.

Mrs. Bio Price P4,077,675 SAM, CDC232 RSDL LOT LA 1.02" scpt. (Inside Vita Emesto Subd.) VILLA ERNESTO SUBD. Phinto 2, Guisi

Min. Bid Prior: 9743.688 SAM CDO233 RSDL LOT

.A. 27,929 sqm. (near Butabat Bean, Schl.) HALL HALL Min. Bus Price:P4,747,936

SAM CDO235 RSDL LOT LA 2,130 sqm. FA 338 aqua Super Highway, KAUSWAGAN Mire. Bid Price.P4,304,497

SAM, CO0236 RSDL LOT LA. 10,344 neer Rosewood Subd.) ERGY CAMAMAN AN Mrs. Bid Price P2,635,170

SAM CD0237 2-51Y HOUSE & LOT LA . .662 sgm FA, 173 sgm, (across the property of Oro Rame shige. Center) LAPASAN Min, Bid Price PB,210,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM CMP240 HOUSE & LOT LA 1,204 som, FA 505 som, (near Runel Bank.) Judge E. Chavez St. FOB NASUN*139AN Mrs. 9kt Prior F2,433,152

SAM, CMP241 REDL BLDG. LA. 300 sqm. Malasugan-Parsag Rit. Brgs. Parsag Sq. Xebpunan. MEW BAJAAN Min. Bid Price P255,000

SAM CMP244 RSDL LOT LA 7,727 som. Penaranda cor Gen. Ebuen Sta. POBLACION MONYAKO

DAVAO Text 99198209662 SAM, DAy 251 AGRI LOT LA 35,366 sgm (reer San Agustia Chapel) Sibo Ramhan, "ORIL Min. Bid Price: P13,089,195

SAN DAI/252 HOUSE & LOT JA. 1,334 sq/hz, resir Pilipinas Aret.) Zembosnips czz. Semel Sts. MSULARI VII....PR. Burkingin Mrs. Bid Price/Ps,087,604

SMIC DRIZS4 COLOUR, LOT LA 20,984 styn. NAT'L HIGHWAY Brox Outday Min. Bid Price P6,205,768

SAM DAVES REDUCCIONATE LOT LAL (57 sqm. shear University Of Immaculate Concepcions Burdingle St. STA, ANA DISTRICT Min. Bid Press: P2,492,100

SAM DAY256 RSD'L LOT LA. 300,000 sqm. Bigy Baholi DIST OF TALOND Min. Bid Prior: P56,461,108

SAM DAVZ57 RSD*L LOT

UA. 90,473 som. Inear Device Holy Trimbyl Brgy Road, BRGY BAGO GALLERIA Mn. 8td Phoe: P31,665,000 SAM, DAVZSI IND'L LOT WE HOUSE

LA 18,823 som FA 122 som. National Highway, Bago Aplaya, DUNCTO Tork Min. 8td ProceP31,989,100 SAM DAV281 VARIOUS COMMIT. BLDG.

LA. 6,760 som FA. 3,944 som. Inear Eccland subd.)
OUMPO SCULEVARD Mating Min. Bid Price: 260,000,000 SAM DAVZ63 HOUSE & LOT

UA 500 scyn.
Demony St. NACILLA SUBD.
Brgy. Mg.-a Telomo
Min. Bid PriossP1,052,500 SAM DAVZES RSEIL LET GREEN HEIGHTS, GARDEN VILL

Min. Bid Price: JOI Arisa 196 som. P 499 900 P 1,096,500 430 som. 3.017 som. 8,924,015 3,204 sqn. P 7,353,180 P 24,235,946 4,351 cgm.

SAM, DAVERO HOUSE & LOT GREEN HEIGHTS, GARDEN VILL Buttengto Dtst. (near Outs House) Lot Asia. Fir Asia (dip. Blot Mp. 88a Price P 3,689,000 217sqm 217mph

SAM_DAV272 COMMELLOT LA. 3,209 sqm. FX-Japan Friendship H-way/Rd Lot 3 GREEN HEIGHTS, GARDEN VILL Burneroun Dat. Mrs. Bid ProceP8,182,950

SAM DAVZ73 COMMIL BLDG. .A. 7,828 sign. FA. 8,366 sign. (along C-version Rd. Fil-Jacon) FREEZING HE-WAY GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL BUSANGIN After Bad Paloachtill 577, KIN

SAM DAYSTA'S STRY, COMMIT, LOT W. WAREHOUSE LA 8.453 spin. FA 3,484 ZUEUG PHARMA BLDG. Diversion Rd. Min. 8td Press P66,220,800

SAM DAVING SUBJES SSTRY ROMANIES LA 748 som FA 205 GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL BUHANGIN Min. Bid Phos:P21,012,000

SAM, DAVISO RECULAÇÃO LA. 1,000 som. BO PAMPANGA Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM DW/261 2 STRY HOUSE A LOT LA 894 som, FA 90 som. Hight betind Ferracia Ste. Ana, Maline Min. Bld Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV265 AGRI LOT JA. 16,417 sqm. Joper Predad, YORK, DIST, Min. Bed Prese:P14,000,350 SAM_DAV286 RSDL LOT

LA 2,562 sum (vezi Přeplinovat Subit.) San Vicente, PANASO Min. Bld Press: P640,000 SAM DAVZ91 HOUSE & LOT LA, 806 sgm, FA, 215 sgm.

Near Protector, Broy Hall Brggs4 Pob. Ost. Min. Bid Price: P0,060,000 SAM DAVZEZ RSD' CLOT

LA. 4,000 sqm. NATL H-WAY, Bego Min. Bld Price: P12,394,796 SAM DAV294 AGRELOT

LA. 16,044 spn. (new NA Pd) Brgy Del Proc NEW COPELLA Min. Brd ProceP2,045,610 SAM DAVZ96 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT LA 600 sqm FA 8) sam. inear Alvance Learning Center! Brgy, Road, Poblacion, NEW CORELLA

Min. Bid Price: P453,000 SAME DAYZON HOLESE A LOT. A. 14.214 som. FA 360 som. (along MATI teat" Highway) BRGY BAGLAKBAYAN, Lupon

Mrs. Bid Price:P1,914,996 SAM_DAY/298 INDS'L LOT LA 94,687 som Devad Agusan Nath Road Brgy Mahayag, BUNANIAN DIST, Mrt. Bid Price:P224,881,626

LA 74.632 scro BRGY POSLACION Min. Bid ProssP31,718,600

SAM DAV303 RESERT LOT GULF YIEW EXEC HOMES, Phil Sego Apraya, Talomo Lot Area Min. 8 Min. 8lid Price P 249,750 185 sqm. P 270,000

SAM, DAVIDA I STRY COMMIL

LA 820 scm F.A. 1,796 scm.

(near 6P: San Pedro) SAN PEDRO ST., Poblecion

Min. Bid Price: P15,000:000

ADFRICE BLDG

SAM, DAVIDOT AGRILLOTS LA 477 481 sgm. BO MATINA PANGI Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

SAM DANGS REDL TOWNHOLSE LA 280 som. GREEN HTS, GARDEN VILL SUF-WYGIN (near Club House) Min. Bid Price: P4.780,000

KIDAPAWAN Text 09157470332 SAME KND374 AGRI LOT LA 12,474 sope SRGY, PACO Kidepe

Text 09217366885 SAM, MIS489 HOUSE & LOT LA 11,378 agn. FA 235 agn. ALUBLIO Misamis Onerta Min. Bid Proc. P1,934,260

NORTH COTOBATO Text 09157470332 SAM NOT376 AGRILLOT (A 49, 556 sgm National Rd. Bryly Manuburn, MATALANI Min. (Bid Prices) 21,625,000

SAM NOT327 PISOL LOT W/ PIGGERY LA 15,000 som FA 320 som Brgy, Kauchuan, KABABACAN Mrs. Bid Price, 2,550,000 SOUTH COTABATO Text 09157470332

SAM, SCT378 INDS1. LIDE W/ MICTORPOOL LA 3,000 sqn FA 330 sqn JGTAS VILLAGE, Carnery Rd., Polomoidear Tropiand Pawnshop) Min. Biol Price, P2,550,000

SAM SCISSORSULLOT .A .05; sominear Sta Nino Perioti) M. ROXAS BLVD EXT. Poblacion, Sto Mino Mm. Bird Priesc2904,400

SAM_SCT381 AGRI LOT LA 6, 540 sqra STO: HINKS Min. Shd Priest Pt AND 200

SAM_SCESSE REDILLOT LA 13, 477 synthesis Sig. Nimo Half. Young Halfi PCS, 570 KBNO Hills, Bid. Price: P6,727,725

SAM, SCT383 HOUSE & LOT LA 1661 som FA 278 som Boorfacto St. POB. NORALA Man. Bid PhoscP617,696 SAM SCISM HOUSE A LOT

LA 22 587 sgm FA 176 sgm Indar Scroon Roemill Bo Synsomer, POBLACION MORALA Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975 SAMUSCISHS HOUSE A LOY LA 340 som FA 145 som POBLACION NORALA

SAM SC7300 RSDL LOT W WAREHOUSE LA 2, 581 sqm POBLACION STO. Min. Bid Prior: 2,183,859

Mar. Bid Prices P 335,766

SAM, SCYMY HOUSE & LOT EA 798 sgm Rosal St. Brgy, POB. SURALLARI, Mrs. Bid Priox831,260

SAM SCIAZO RESULLOT Barrio 8, KORONADAL LA Min. Bid Prica 2,126 scm. P 904,400 2,701 scm. P1,377.425

SAM_SCT471 RSD1_LOT LA 1,050 som (near Agen Subd.) Amureo, KORONADAL Min. Bid Proct.P446,250

SAM SCHOOL HOUSE A LOT LA 409 som FA 101 som (near Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital) FL DEPITA SUBD Kommadal Mis. Bid Prior: P521,475

SAM_SCTATS REDILLOT .A3,241 squ Berrio II, KORONADAL Nin. Bid PaccP1,377,425

EA. 1,573 som. FA. 170 som. PUROK SAMPAGUERA Pob.Sto. 18no Min. Blid Price: P4,560,250 **SULTAN KUDARAT** Text 09157470332 SAM SEA396 COMMILLOT

LA 225 somineer Metrobank Tecurongle NATIONAL H-WAY Pool Tecurong Min. Bid Prog. Pt. 147,500 SAM SULS97 RSOL LOT

LA 2 642 som (near Matroburit) 80: DANSIAL tuton Mr. Bd Price: P2,245,705 SAM, SUL398 AGRI JOT UA 1,128 som Jeen Faustra Chapely BO. KALMANAG 1 EXC., leuten,

Mir. Elki ProscP 242,520 SAM SUCRE HOUSE BLOT A 1,000 sqm, FA 107 sqm Buencamino con Tongco Sta.

Mrs. 8td Prov. Pt,547.280

LA 750 agai FA 533 agai QUERNO AVE., Poblacion, Tacurong Coy Min. Bid Price:P5,052,227 SAM SULADI HOUSE & LOT

SAM_SULICE 2 STRY COMMITL BLOS.

Lot Area Pir Area Mitr 9id Prica 423sqm 370sqm P 1.787 750 40ssqm 163sqm P 3,442,500 SAM SULADZ AGRI LOT A 0,15' som Friron of Experience High Schl.) Motive Ed. PORLACIÓN, Esperante Min. Bid ProstP1,368,951

Motave ca: Flores Sts (near Esperanza Mun, High Sch.)

SAM, SULAGE FEEDL BLDG LA 607 som FA 114 som Done St. POB ESPERANZA Mrs. 8id Price:P998,320

SAM SUL408 HOUSE & LOT

Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

LA 494 som FA 148 som Inea: PCBC Isutanij Alumij Municipul Pd.

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.. MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM Aptilon conducted by Mell *El Subamagers* Allejo melladaja Opeleon.com TEL. NOS.: (02) 534-9686 / (02) 534-9725 CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-5649933



HE WALKED AWAY FROM \$1 million a year. He forfeited the luxury and status afforded to a professional football star. In a nation where athletes are worshipped, he chose the anonymity of serving his country halfway around the world.

Ultimately, Pat Tillman sacrificed his life to protect the United States.

What can we learn from the man who may be America's most well-known casualty in the war on terror? More than can be written in a simple article, certainly, but three lessons stand out:

1. A leader chooses purpose over perks.

2. The glory of a leader is to sacrifice for the common good. 3. A leader's sacrifice may not

be compensated with rewards. Purpose over perios

Leaders don't allow dollar figures to dictate how they make decisions. Rather, leaders dig within to bring out the best they have to offer to the world-regardless of the compensation. Also, they aren't seduced into setting for a use of huxury Leaders have a burning passion to make a difference. As a result, they willingly put themselves on the front lines (literally in Tillman's case) to be in the place of greatest respon-

sibility. Pat Tillman had been offered a three-year, \$3.6 million contract with the Arizona Cardinals football team before he enlisted in the army. He could have cashed in on it, retired in his early 30s, and lived comfortably the rest of his life without ever setting foot in Afghanistan.

Yet, Pat Tillman was a leader, and he wasn't about to compromise his sense of duty. He loved his country, and he recognized his talents would be well-suited to serve US interests on the battlefield.

"Pat knew his purpose in

life," said Dave McGinnis, Till-

man's former coach with the

Cardinals. "He proudly walked

away from a career in football to a greater calling."

Sacrifice for common good slow to exercise our responsibil- shops, please email us at bingerity to the community. The gen erations who persevered through the Great Depression Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 and the World Wars are passing (Smart) to get doily SMS leader-

A LEADER'S WAY

John C.

Maxwell

the benefits of their sacrifices without having to endure their

hardships Perhaps for this reason, we feel a sense of entitlement. We feel like the world owes us a life of ease and affluence. Children expect to be paid allowances, and teens assume they'll be handed keys to a new car when they turn 16. We feel deprived without wireless Internet, TiVo,

and HDTV. Counter to modern culture, leaders know no entitlement. They think in terms of creating rather than consuming. They value corporate welfare above individua, security, Pat Tillman's life bears out this philosophy. In his mind, it was unthinkable to enjoy life in the USA while soidiers protected his freedom abroad. He felt compelled to be the protector, not the one enjoying the benefits of

No pay, no rewards

protection.

Tragically, Pat Tillman gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country. His selflessness and bravery led to his death on the

battlefield. Leaders cannot be certain of the costs their sacrifice will require of them. For every soldier who stands victoriously after the war has been won, another soldier lies life, ess on the battlefield. Many times, a leader pays the ultimate price with no reward but the hope of bettering

the lives around him or her. Pat Tillman was an American hero. His life serves to remind us of the tremendous sacrifices we may be asked to make as leaders. Also, his story brings to mind the courageous men and women serving overseas. We thank them for their sacrifice, and we wish them safety and a

speedy return home. (For information on John In America, we are quick to Moowell's in-house or public assert our individual rights and leadership or teamwork workicta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing.

from the stage. We are reaping ship insights from Maxwell.) Business tips from Asia's 'Mr. No Frills'

music brand six years ago. Then only 37, Malaysian Tony Fernandes drove a company Jaguar, listened to a \$10,000stereo system in his office, and hobnobbed with recording stars and entertainment executives as Warner Music's top honcho some tips from someone who

in Southeast Asia. Then he went "crazy." He quit Warner, mortgaged his home, and sank his lifetime savings into a Malaysian airline that had racked up an \$11-million debt even before 9/11. To Pernandes, it was the realization of a boyhood dream to own an airline; to his peers in the corporate world, it was like jumping off a plane without a parachute.

"Most people thought I was crazy," he says. "When we started, they said it wouldn't work. They said we would die." Fernandes not only survived the costly plane ride; he

thrived. His Air Asia is now an

international carrier world-

renowned for revolutionizing

Southeast Asian air travel as Asia's first budget carrier. Its no-falls business model has spawned copycats among Southeast Asian airlines offering low-cost fares and forced

Asian skies open. Manila as one of the 13 global business leaders and visionaries speaking at the 6th Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) International CEO Conference at the Makati Shangri-La on Oct. 2-3,

"This will be a rare occasion (632) 751-1149 to 52.

HE WAS A HIGH-FLYING COR- for Philippine business to learn porate executive from a global valuable lessons from Mr. Fernandes' strategies in turning around a company from bankruptcy into one of Asia's most imaginative airline," said conference chair Evelyn R. Singson

How does he do it? Here are

started with zero experience in

running an airline and is now

redefining travel in the Asia-Pa-1. It's all about passion. He wanted to start Malaysia's first discount airline a few years ago, but he couldn't get a license. He found a way to get to then-Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and sold hum the idea of having a discount carrier that could revolutionize Asian air travel and boost tourism in the midst of the 9/11 terrorist at-

tacks. 2. Hire people who share your passion. Pernandes says look for people for their ability, talent and passion.

3. Have a good corporate culture. "We have to remain humble. We have to remember our roots. Too many companies forget their beginnings and that is where it an goes wrong," he

Those interested to see and Fernandes is arriving in hear Fernandes and other top business leaders and visionaries shaping today's global business may register online for the 6th MAP International CEO Conference at www.mapceoconference.com or call the MAP secretariat at telephone numbers

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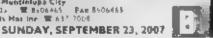
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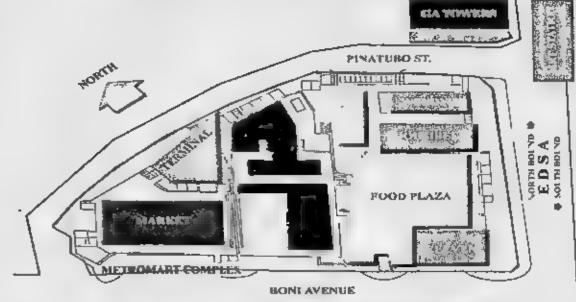
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION 78 One Corporate Plaza Cond., M5 A. Amala Ave. Legarps Vill., Brgy. San Lorenzo. Makati City Tel. No. 817-077;



PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE



STATE OF TWO SERVE

INVITATION TO BID

Vicinity Map

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), is offering for sale in cash or installment the property described below.

Description	: Commercial Complex	
Area	: 7,428.0 square meters	
Address	: Along FDSA cor Boni Avenue and Pinatubo Sts., Mandaluyong City	
Floor Price	; P 426,977,000.00	
Terms of Sale	: Cash or installment (Best Offer)	

- The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. Sidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
- Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address.

BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
7º Roor One Corporate Plaza. 845 A. Amaiz Aversie, Makati City

- 4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 69, 2007, Friday at 2:00PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation. 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Amaiz Avenue, Makali City
- The sealed bits should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, ?* Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Amaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00PM on November 29, 2007, Thursday.
 The property is available for inspection to all bidders during business days and hours from Mondays to Fridays.

For more details, please contact Luz C, Jackillo, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 / 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 on Felix Samson, Assistant Project Head, EDMD at lef. no. 531-3324 and call no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee (Sgd., E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV

(PDI-Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 2007)

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For assignment in CDO or Cabanatuan City

BS in Holei and Restaurant Management Preferably with relevant industry experience Preferably with a master's degree or has earned a substantial

Republic of the Philippines

PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL **Bids and Awards Committee** Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of

Negros Oriental invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids in the bidding of the following requirements, viz. a, one (1) unit SURPLUS SKW DUMP TRUCK as specified. b. one (1) unit SURPLUS 10 WHEELER DUMP TRUCK as specified

Estimated Lot Price: P 2,440,000.00 The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial Ganeral Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with TeVFax #: (035) 422-8895.

Bid forms will be made available right after the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on October 3, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City. The submission and opening of bids is scheduled on October 16, 2007, at 10:00 s.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

> (Sgd.) ATTY ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee Provincial General Services Officer

(POI - September 23, 2007)



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Please submit DETAILED resume, BIDICATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS, with complete ettachment of photocopies of Certifications & Trainings at the above stated address.

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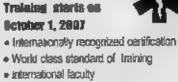


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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules (GSD-07-54317)

- The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), through its Annual Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sam of Philippine Paso 42,600,000.00 for the Supply and Detwery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the comract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
- TRANSCO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Transportation/Maintenance Service Utility Vehicles in Three (3) Schedules (GSD-07-64317). Supply and Delivery of the GOODS required for each schedule is stated below. The description of an eligible Bidday is certained in Section II, from 5.1 of the

Schedule	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in PHP	Delivery Schedule
	Three (3) units Boom Truck Four (4) Units Light Truck 4x4	23,900,000.00	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days Irom Contract, altactivity
li li	Seven (7) Units Pick-Up 4x4 One (1) Unit Sports Unitsy/High-Official Function Vehicls	10.400,000.00	Yhiny (30) Calendar Days from Contract elfectivity
13)	Ten (10) Julia Passenger Wagon	8,500,000.00	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from Contract effectivity

- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/leif criteria as appointed in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino officens/sole proprietorships, and organizations with at least sudy percent. (60%) interest of outstanding capital elock belonging to obviens of the Philippines. Only Blds from Bioders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bit (LCB) shall advance to the post-quatrication stage in order to finally determine the bid's responences as to the jechnical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be ewarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bioder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
- Interested Biddens may obtain further information from TRANSCO and inspect the Stidding Documents at the address stated in flem 10 starting September 17, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address: stated in item 10 and upon payment of a non-refundable has in the arrount of Philippine Paso 5,000.02. The Bidding Documents shell be received personally by the peoppective Bidder or his
- TRANSCO will hold a Pre-Sid Contarence open to all injerested parties on Dotober 2, 2007 9:00 A.M. at C.U. Del Rosano Hall A, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue comer BIP Roed, Dilimon, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- Bilds and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bild opening stated in Hem. 8 on or before 9:00 A./8, of October 16, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III, Item 22.1 of the Bidding Cocuments, BOS. Late Bids shall not be eccepted.
- Bild opening shall be held on October 18, 2007, 9:00 A.M. at C.U. Del Rosario Hall A, Power Training Center Building, Manonel Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue comer BIA Road, Dilunan, Quezon City, Metro Manile, Phéppines. Bids will be operad in the presence of the
- *PRANSCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the biding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any flability to the
- 10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat of the following address Mr. R. D. Nabong

Manager Birds and Contracts Management Department (BCMD) Ground Flags, TransCo Main Building, Power Center National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road 1104 Daman, Ouezon City Weno Mamba, PHILIPPINES Tel. Nos. (632) 921-2308, 981-2212, 981-2213, Telefax No.. (832) 981-2308

(Sgd.) NOEL Z, DE LEON **Bids and Awards Committee**

(PDI - September 15 & 20, 2807)



INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

interested bidders to pre-quality and to bid for the supply and delivery of materials: equipment specified for the following projects,

- SUBSIDY PROJECTS: Extension of Lateral Line for the Electrification of Brgy. San Juan Ste Marcele, Sillo Tomas, Maura, Apartl and Purok Smarter Libertad, Abulug, Cagayari.
 - Wood poles, concrete poles
- Construction hardwares, wires, transformers
- II. CAPEX PROJECTS
 - 69KV TX Line
 - Woodpoles Suspension (naulators (glass, porcelain, polymer)
 - Fault Indicator
 - Substation Current Transformers, Insulating Class 89KV
 - CT Rated Power Quality Maters
- HL 5% REINVESTMENT PROJECTS: Rehab/Revemp Upgrading Along Distribution Linea
 - Woodpoies, Concrete poies
 - Wires, construction hardwares, compression connectors, insulators Fault Indicators
- IV. METER FIX
 - **CT Rated Kwh Meters** Duplex Wires
- To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:
- Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Charance E. Jacksto)
 - Company Profile
 - **Business Registration** Business Permit
 - **BIR/VAT Certificate**
 - Letest Income Tax Return (ITR)
- List of clients for a period of three (3) years Financial Statement
- Compliance with the must technical specifications 2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 for bid documents during the pre-bid

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, weive any formally therein, accept proposal for most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expense or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders.

Deadline for submission of requirement - October 98, 2007.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS General Manager

(POI Supt. 22 & 23, 2007)

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Notice is hereby given that CHENSHIN CORPORATION is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as Expanding Producer of Smoked Fish for Export on a Non-Ploneer status with a capacity of 2,000 MT per year with project/ plant site located at Ngllay Road, Tambler, General Santos City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under cath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this

(Sgd.) ENGR. RUDY 8. CAÑA, RPAE

Project Evaluation and Registration Dept. PDI Sept 23, 2007



(POI Sept 23, 2007)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that PROPERTY COMPANY OF ERIENDS, (NC. with office address at 55 Tinlo Street. Addit.on H...s. Mandalwong C.ty. Motro Manta is applying for registration with the Board of (rivestments (801)) as New Developer of Low-cost Mass Housing Project (The Alcove at Ridgecrest) on a Non-Ploneor Sistus will Capacity of 397 Low-cost mass housing units with project plant sits located at Molino, Bacoor, Caylle and Pasong

Any person with valid objection/s on the abovementioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this

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Headstrong will have its Open House Recruitment for IT professionals (SAP programmers, ABAP programmers, Java Developers, Techn.ca. Writers, etc) on Monday, Sept. 24, from 9 AM to 6 PM at its Manila Global Delivery Center in Makat. City. Walk-in applicants will be processed on the same day Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply For further details on the event, please refer to the ad released on the Job Market section (J4) of this paper



TELETECH SPONSORS PMAP CONFERENCE

Teletech recently signed an agreement with the People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) to be one of the Major Sponsors of the 44th PMAP Annual Conference scheduled on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Shown are (from left) jo Buot, Teletech's director for Human Capital Delivery; PMAP Ways and Means Committee chairperson Lina A. Aseneta; PMAP Treasurer Julie M. Miteria, PMAP President Mark O. Go. Maulik Parekh, Teletech VP and Gen. Manager-Asia; Teletech's executive director for Human Capital Penny Bongato; and Me Anne Batallones, Teletech's director for talent acquisition.

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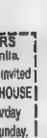
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(POI-Sept 16,23 &30'07)

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is heraby that the Stock Cart 44635 MER-B Shares 10.300; - AEV Shures 20,000; 37061 MER-A Shares 10; under the Name of GONZALO D. RODUE JR. & Cert 020754 APM-B Shares 20,000,000 under the Name of MATEMARA, INC. Are lost Hind contest is received new certificates will be issued. IPDI Sept. 23, 30, & Oct. 7, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Moralco Slock Certifigate issued to ROSANA ... DUE under Certificate No. AD: 44 99, AD224853 and A0391505 with total no. of 196 shares. Il no contest received: new stock certificate will be

Notice is hereby given of the lost of San Miguel Corporation stock certificates issued to Edmund Ye Chos, Edmund Yu Chus ITF Edisal Anthony S Yu Chue, and Edmund Chus ITF Edric Andro S. Yu Chee under part ficate nos B01201009, B92023344 989005818. 889002048 B99181509 868001804. B93034398. B92023533. 869008199. B99181508. 893034397, 892023532, & B89008200 with total no. of 1,094 shares. Should no one contast received, new stock certificates will be tosued. (PCI Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

(PD) Sept. 23,305 Oct. 7, 2007.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spini thou who make me see everything and show the line way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gitt to forgive and longer the virong that is does to me and who are in all instances of my life. with me. I, in this short dia regue ward to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no mat for how great the malerial desires maybe. I want to be with You and my leved ones in Your Perpetual Glory, Amen. Mama Mary, St. Thamese and St. Anthony, Thank Youl-

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(PDI - September 22 A 23, 2007)

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Be it known that warrant of arrest of CRISPIN S DEL CARMEN, whose picture appears above have been issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 154, Pasig City with Criminal Case No. 134826-PSG (LS No. PSG-06-11-12484) for qualified theft.

Any information that will lead to his arrest shall be rewarded. Please direct any information to contact tel. nos. 687-4922 or 6353290 and look for Atty Roberto C. Guevarra. (POI-Sopt. 23, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that warrant of arrest of ISMAEL M. BONGAR, whose picture appears above, have been issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 154, Pasig City with Crimina, Case No 134926-PSG (I.S. No. PSG-06-11-12484) lor

Any information that will lead to his arrest shall be rewarded. Please direct any information to contact tell nos. 687-4922 or 6353290 and look for Alty Roberto C. Guevarra.

(POI-Sept. 23, 2007)

8752590 09273401978

PMAP CONFERENCE IN CEBU

People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) will have Generali Pilipinas as one of its Major Sponsors in its Annual Conference on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Shown during the MOA signing are (from left) Generali's senior asst. vice president, Chito Paras and senior executive vice president for Sales and Marketing, Augustus J. V. Ferreria with PMAP president Mark O. Go, and PMAP Ways and Means Committee chair Lina A. Aseneta. This year's theme "People Deliver: Linking People and Results' will feature top notch CEOs to, share experiences about leadership, people practices and results.

Mortgage bonds seen to raise by tenfold liquidity for housing

gage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) announced that it is set to float by June 2008 mortgage-backed securines (MBS) financial instruments capable of multiplying by tenfold the liquidity or funds available for the housing finance sector This is according to Joseph

Peter S Stson, NHMFC presi

dent, in a speech at the recent

housing trade exhibits of the

National Real Estate Associa tion (NREA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Sison said that securitization program for real estate mortgages is one of the reform programs of Vice Presi-

HUDCC chair "By 2010, Chair De Castro plans to institutionalize a sustainable housing finance system less dependent on banks and pension funds for its funding requirements," Sison said.

dent Noli de Castro, concurrent

The trade exhibits precedes the holding of the 12th NREA-**HUDGC** National Convention set on Sept. 27-28, at the Ayala Hall

THE NATIONAL HOME MORT- of Makati Sports Club, Leviste St., Makati City Sison also caded on NREA and its members to participate in the

shelter securitization program,

either as investor-buyers of MBS, or provider-seller of realty assets estate in the form of mortgages, or contracts to sell The NREA-HUDGG convention is focused on the theme, A Better Outlook in Philippine Real Esrate: "Building Local, Selling Glo-

bal, Developing Green" In line with this, NHMFC will undertake its securitization program, by selling MBS to investors even from international finance companies, to finance local real estate development and affordable home acquisition, Sison in-

Responding to the challenge,

NREA chairman Jose V Manalad

said that private housing partners

President's key housing initia-Marketing guru Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA president, also vowed to help mobilize the realty sector to boost VP De Castro's

shelter program.

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Notice is hereby given that the EEI Corp. Sales Invoice Nos. 10550, 10551, 10554, 10580, 10676, 10685, 10687, 10690, 18721, 10746 & 10747 issued to Marefu Jardinel last 2% YEIO TAKENG CAR 7880183-84

October 7, 2007)

HOTTICE OF LOSS **EMPLOYMENT** DOMESTIC: NO. OF THE PARTY OF

(PDI-Sept. 9, 18 & 23, 2007)

Mohoe is bereby given that WIZUSTREAL REALTIES. HIC. Slock Centrale/13-A esued in the name of WANUEL G. MONTECALO dated March 25,1995 covering 48,000 shares line book reported lost by Mr. Manuel G. Montet do II an contest is received. the Corp. will ssale a new stock cart in his name as provided by law (PDI-923,39,197,2007).

Notice of Joss. Harkage Memorial Park Certificates Nos. 113968 and 113969 (w/ Lot Nos. 04L10367 and 04L10369) Issued to RO-LANDO P. ORENSE IT TO contast received, new car-

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John 11:25-26

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."

AUGUSTO "BABY" TORRALBA SANCHEZ

Of Plaridel and Malolos, Bulacan who died on the 20th of September, 2007 at the age of 72.

His loving wife Mila, children Mike & Pet, Emmaline (†), Augusto, Jr. & Vollet, Eric & Malu, Teresa, Jay, Alex, Millet & Larry, Patricia, Augusto III, grandchildren Michelle, Carla (†), Barbara & Victor, Joey, Augusto IV, Austin, Candy, Dimple, Quiel, Eric Augusto, Jr., Erika, Larry Boy, Minette, Lizzie, great grandchildren Patrice, Noelle, Melanie and Angelina together with his other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlungton Memorial Chapels, 12-G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be on Thursday, 27th of September 2007, at the Manila Memorial Park in Plaridel, Bulacan after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the San Roque Chapel, Barangay Longos, Pulilan, Bulacan.

"Our eternal gratitude for nurturing us until the end. Now, God will nurture you forever. Well done Mama!"

In loving memory of our beloved

Dolores Buenaflor del Rosario

March 5, 1924 - September 24, 2006

on her first year anniversary of her peaceful homecoming to the Father's House

Remembrance Mass will be offered for her on September 24, 2007 at the Buenatlor-del Rosano Family Mausoleum in Dumangas, llollo Catholic Cemetery at 9:30am.

Other masses on the same day will be offered at the following;

Sacred Heart Church, Manville, New Jersey ... St. Augustine Church, Dumangas, Ilollo Immaculate Conception Church, Tanza, Ilollo 6:00 am Miraculous Medal Church, Calumpang, Itolio 6:00 am Miraculous Medal Church, Project 4, Quezon City

Family members request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in prayer for the elemal repose of her soul.



Message of Chanks

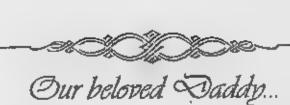
From the Family of

JUANA DE LA PAZ GAPUD

who passed away on September 16, 2007 is now joined in Christ with her husband Melanio and eldest son Jose.

We, her surviving children Lourdes, Milagros-Ang, Victor, Marso and Benjamin wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who condoled with us during our hour

of bereavement.



PRECIOSO "PAPA SONG" SANTOS DAVID SR.

Pencefully joined his Creator on September 17, 2007

His beloved wife Wilfrida F. David, his children Marlyn F. David, Bernie and Nelia, Precioso Jr. "Sunny" and Karen (†), Sev and Gigi, and Dr. Joselito "Jojo" and Emily and all his grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains will lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Chapel in San Fernando, Pampanga starting Monday, September 24, 2007. Interment will be 3 p.m., Wednesday, September 26, 2007





JULIA "LILY" LLAMAS NARCELLES

April 12, 1943 ~ August 19, 2007

A WORD OF GRATITUDE For your expression of sympathy to our

family, be it in words or deeds, in emails, cards, letters or flowers; your concern, presence and support, care, love and assistance are much appreciated because they reminded us that in difficult times, God extends his loving hands...

THE NAKCELLES FAMILY

Let us commemorate the 40th day of her demise on Thursday, September 27, 2007 during the celebration of the Holy Masses in the Philippines and around the world

She is our angel, our saint and our model who is forever treasured and loved. We thank God for having given us such a mother we can always be proud of. Let us continue to pray for the repose of her soul May she rest in peace. Amen.



MANUEL S. SERRANA, JR.

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

Peacefully joined our Lord and his father MANUEL SR. on September 17, 2007 at the age of 65

His mother Salome; his wife Erlinda and children Erman & Maxelle, Manuel III & Maki, Anna Karina, Erwellyn, Raphael Andrew, Anna Kristina and Anna Karmela, grandchildren, brothers and

sisters, nieces, nephews and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the following:

23 Sept. to 26 Sept.

 Loyola Memorial Park Marikina Chapei 4

- St. Mary's Chapel. St. Mary 27 Sept. to 30 Sept.

Subd., Nangka, Marikma City Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2007 at the

Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 3:00 PM Mass at the St. Mary's Chapel, St. Mary Subd., Nangka, Marikina City.

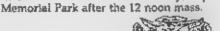
CAPT, ALBERT L. ABAD

PAF(RET)

Pencefully joured our Lord on Sept 20, 2007 at the age of 52. His loving wife Bhel Lopez, children Behen (†), Jao, Jake & April, his brothers & sisters Boy (†), Babee, Lito, Inday, Nonoy, Arnie & Andrew, all in-laws & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at Acacia Room, Funeraria Paz, Manila

Memorial Park, Paradaque City Interment will be on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at Manila



Jesus Sunga Ocampo

who peacefully joined his Creator on the 21st of September 2007 at the age of 83

His bereaved wife Georgie, daughter Margot, son-in-law Joy and grandchildren Walten & Kathleen, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park, Mankina. Interment will be on Friday, September 28, 2007 at Loyols Memorial Park







(PDI Sept. 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines Province of Orlantal Negros City of Bayawan BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE http://www.bayawancity.gov.ph (036; 631-0020 local 202

(035) 531-0638 (telefax) INVITATION TO APPLY FOR BLIGIBILITY AND TO BID

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3	Ť	umib ⁶ a	Pistol Cal. 48 Potos Emistica (Delated Specification in Instruction to Staters)	45,000.00	General Fund
4	1	ertille.	MPSK 9 x 18 mm (9mm Parabellum) brand heer (Caraled Specification in Instruction to Buddars)	\$85,000.00	General Fond
5	1	un K/s	MrT 4x4 Pick-up (Detected Specification in Instruction to Bilddern) "" Mothing follows "	1,200,000.00	General Fund

Bid documents shall be svallable at the BAC Office, Annex Specie Comptex Sufferg, LGU Beyawan City upon peyment of prescribed non-refundable fee.

Before shall drop thair facturical and financial proposate in the tild box at the BAC Office, Beyawan City on or before the deadline of submassion of bids.

All particulars relative to elegishing process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184.

The City of Bayevian reserves the right to report any or all bids, to wake any defects or formally therein and to accept bids considered responsive and rabit advantageous to the government. The complete schedule of activities is fisted, as linkburs.

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 24, 2007 to October 16, 2007 to 0:00 AM
Pre-bid Contorence	October 02, 2007 @ 2,00 PM
Engibility Check	Not later than October 15, 2007
Deaduse/Opening of Bids	October 16, 2007 @ 10:00 AM

(Sgd.) LANIT PATAJO BAC Chaimmo



ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913 TIN 000-716-369 V Tel. No. (077) 784-71-26/784-00-82 Local 818

Fax No. 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The flocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to submit bids for the said project.

The project includes the furnishing of tabor and materials for the construction of about 37 kilomiteers of 69 KV line in the Province of

Bid documents may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat during office hours starting October 8, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable tee of P10.000 00.

The TWO-ENVELOPE SYSTEM shall be followed:

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or manager's check in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid

The INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expenses or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most adventageous to the NEC.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM, REE BAC - Chairman

OIC - General Manager (PDI - September 22 & 23, 2007)

(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE

CLASSIFIEDS



Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU EARB Building, DENR Compound, Visayes Ave., Daman, Ouazon Cay Tolephone Nos. 820-22-40/42 Email emb@emb.gov.ph Visit us at http://www.amb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REARING

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) of the NICKEL MINING PROJECT of the CENTURY PEAK CORPORATION to be located at the Brgy. Panamaon, Loreto. Dinagat Province

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed Nickel Mining Project of Century Peak Corporation to attend a Public Hearing on Oct. 12, 2007, 9:00 AM at the Brgy. Panamaon Hail, Loreto, Dinagat Province

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (F S) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should first register in person or by mall with the EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City c/o Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul Officer-In-charge of the EIAM Division or with the EMB Region XIII with Office address at 3rd Floor Gorme Bidg., Langihan Road, Butuan City, or at the public

Individual and/or organizations may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB Central Office and/or Region XIII on or before Oct. 12, 2007

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through For, Mark Saclag or Engr. Marivio Yao at telephone numbers 920-2240 to 42

People, Events Products

A Chocolaity-fun Sunday at Glorietta

citing trip to the Magnolia Choco

Magnolia Chocolait has concocted a whole day of fun-packed activities at the Glonetta Activity Center where great adventures abound to challenge the body and mind of young trekkers.

Inside the Magnoha Choco Land, one can basically find all the elements close to a child's heart stones, coloring books, pictures, games and prizes-made even more special with the company of new

First stop is the storytelling area called the Magnolia Chocolast Dreamland where kids can learn

little ones miss this year's most ex- Magnolia Chocolait in an interac-

After tickling their imagination, the marshals will take the voyagers to three amazing challenge areas: the Magnolia Chocolait Maze, the Magnolia Chocolait Swamp and the Magnolia Chocolait Rockies. These challenges will lead the kids to the adventures of Choco Land that will inspire and help them to develop a strong mind and an active body.

Kids will then troop to the Magnolu Chocolast Photo Zone to have their souvenir pictures taken so they could share with everyone their escapades inside the Magnolia Chocolast Factory.

There's more. Promising artists Magnoha Choco Land.

ON SER 23, DON'T LET YOUR about the "chocolait-y" goodness of can showcase their creativity inside the Coloring Area and win some more Magnolia Chocolast gift packs to make their trip extra memorable.

Taking the trip to the Magnolia Choco Land is easy. Kids whose schools were previously visited by the Chocolait Bus simply need to present their Golden Tickets to get

Those who haven't participated in the Chocolait Bus School tour can also participate. Just purchase a Magnolia Chocolatt back-to-school pack from the pre-selling area in the mail in exchange of the Golden

Parents are also welcome to join and bond with their kids inside the



The management of Security Bank Corp (SBC) and the Security Bank Employees' Union (SBEU) have successfully concluded negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that will last up to 2011. Led by SBEU chair Billy Joe R Legnes and management negotiating panel chair Maximo N. Madridejos Jr in the presence of SBC executive vice president Jesus Roberto S. Reyes (seated 2nd, 4th and 3rd from the left, respectively), the two parties speedily concluded the negotiations of the CBA as a result of an

amicable relationship between the management and workforce of Security Bank. With them in the signing caremony held at the Brasserie 21 of Security Bank Centre were (seated from left) SBEJ legal adviser Meynard O. Garcia, management legal counsel lawyer Carlos Jose F Bat no. (standing from left) un on officers Francis Gilbert V. See, Jackjones C. Bartolata and Michelle C. Li-Wong and management negotiating panelists Estrellita V. Ong, Ma. Victoria B. Dimayuge and Peace E. Ibarra.

Global-Link MP organizes manufacturing technology event

GLOBAL-LINK MP EVENTS INTER- show may be attributed to the supnational Inc (GMP), the country's port provided by various local and leading trade exhibition and business conference organizer, brings back the 14th Manufacturing Technology World Series-the biggest and most impressive technology, machinery and automation event to be held in the country from Sep. 26 to 29 at the prestigious World Trade show has been completely sold out world is committed to bring the Center Metro Manila

6-in-1 show

This mega event will bring together six power-packed events in one mega show, namely: Enviro-Tech Philippines (Total Environmental Management Technology), Metal Philippines (Metalworking, Hardware and Welding Equipment), Philtronics (Electronics and Semiconductor), Plastics & Packaging Philippines (plastics and packaging technology), Print & Label Philippines (Printing and Label Machinery) and WoodMach Philippines (Woodworking and Furniture-making Machinery).

"This year, Manufacturing Technology World Series grew substantially both in terms of size and number of machinery on display. There will be a total of over 700 exhibitors representing products and services from 19 countries and occupying over 15,000 sam of indoor and outdoor exhibition space. We expect this event to be one of the biggest and most successful in the region as the overall turnout is totally great!" said Jing Lagandaon, chief operating officer of Global-

The impressive outcome of the Salcedo Village, Makati City.

international organizations and business networks, including the Association of the Electronics Industries in Singapore (AEIS), the International Enterprise of Singapore and various consulates, offices and representatives. The and has international country pavilions coming from China, Singapore, Korea and Taiwan

Manufacturing Technology World Series is co-organized by the Packaging Institute of the Philippines (PIP), the Philippine Plastics Industry Association (PPIA), the Philippine Center for Print Excellence Inc (PCPE) and the Philippine Electronics & Semiconductor Suppliers Association (Pessa). whose contribution allowed the show to achieve record-breaking

P100M in sales

For the past 13 years, this event has become the most well attended industrial affair in the country. Each event generates over P100 million in reported onsite sales, which serves as a clear indication that the products and services being displayed is perfect for the Philippine market. For more information, call Global-Link MP at 750-8588, fax 750-8585, e-mail info@globallinkph.com, or log on to www.globallinkph.com. Visit its of fices at Unit 1003, Antel 2000 Corporate Center, 121 Valero Street,

"Visitors to the show can expect to see a wide range of machinery, products and services from all over the world. It is estimated that over 18,000 products, machines and services for the manufacturing industry will be showcased at the expo. Global-Link MP and its network of over 35 offices around the very best to the Philippines. We are committed to enhance the growth and global success of our local manufacturers and exporters in the years to come. Our vision and mission is clear-we will continue to serve as the link for business opportunities for our local businessmen." added Lagandaon.

Other supporters of the Manufacturing Technology World Series are the First Association of Self-Adhesive Label Industry of the Philippines (Fasalip), the Original Equipment Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (Oemap), the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the Mechatronics & Robotics Society of the Philippines (MRSP), the Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines (Miap), the Philippine Welding Society (PWS) and the Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF)

"In 2008, we expect an even bigger expo as various international organizations have confirmed additional foreign pavilions to be set up at the show. This is definitely something to look forward to when Manufacturing Technology World happens from Sep. 24 to 27, 2008." said Lagandaon.

Review for realty broker's licensure exam

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INdustry has set another licensure examination for those aspiring to be licensed real estate brokers on Nov. 25. With the onset of another real estate boom as in the 1990s, it is expected that many would be positioning themselves ahead as real estate professionals. In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate announced the four schedules of its Comprehensive Real Estate Seminars (CRES) and review in Makati and Quezon City as follows:

The Saturday afternoon section will be held on Sep. 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 10 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at Max's Restaurant near the exit of Glorietta 2, Makati City while the Monday afternoon section will be on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, Nov. 5 and 12, from 1.15 to 6:45 p.m.; and the eight-session Tuesday evening section will be on Sep. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, from 6 to 10 p.m., also at the same venue in Makati City.

The Thursday afternoon section will be held at Max's Restaurant at Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City on Oct. 4, 11, 18, of 1 15 to 6 45 p.m.

Engineer Enrico Cruz, 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraisers and brokers board examination respectively, and son lawyer Rex Enrico V. Cruz III, the same team that produced 11 topnotchers and the highest 86 passing percentage in the last May broker's licensure exam, are again the lecturers on the subjects officially prescribed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Urban also announced that updated copies of "Comprehensive Notes and Reviewer For Real Estate Broker's Examination" and "Mastering the Real Estate Broker's Exam" are now available for distribution to aspiring examinees. The two best-selling real estate books contain all the board exam topics with more than 200 past board questions and answers sorted according to board subject required by DTI. This reviewer will also be a handy reference for real estate developers, practitioners and property owners

For other details, or advance registrations, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, 796-8019 or 25, Nov. 8 and 15, the same time slot 0916-4269174 or 0921-6839431. Email urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



CEO OPENS FIRST MANILA OFFICE

Corporate Executive Offices (CEO) the Australian-based serviced offices provider, will soon open its first Manila office. Conveniently located at the 12th floor of the Robinsons Summit Centre along Ayala Avenue, Makati City, the CEO office will feature state-of-the-art office technology and will be initially run by a select group of top-ranking CEO executives from Australia CEO's fully furnished serviced offices range from one- to 20-person venues, and will feature such amenities as full reception, telephone and message hand ing services, voicemail, unified messaging, cleaning, conference room, as well as an in-house snack counter and cafeteria.

'Flavors of

Spain 2007'

EXPERIENCE A wealth

of colors, flavors and

textures as Fuego Ho-

tels gives you a taste of

the world's besti Fuego

Hotels and Properties,

in cooperation with The

Spanish Institute for

Foreign Trade (Icent)

and the Economic and

Commercial Office of

the Spanish Embassy,

brings the "Flavors of

year's theme is "Pas-

sion for Food, Passion

for Life", a month-long.

series of events featur-

ing the best of food,

wine and culture that

Spain has to offer. For

more information, call

750-1999, 750-1895,

750-1897, or e-mail

guests@fuegoho-

tels.com. Log on to

www.fuegohotais.com.

Spain 2007". This

CEO's offices provide an ideal option to traditional office leasing arrangements, allowing start-up or highly mobile companies quick and cost-effective solutions to their office space regu rements. In line with its forthcoming grand launch in October, CEO recently signed up with its exclusive PR and advertising partner, ALV Consultus Advertising no Shown, from left, are Mariska Folley, CEO operations manager, Alesya Folley, CEO business center manager; Jenny Forley, CEO managing director, Arnold Vegafria, president, ALV Consultus Advertising inc. Jonas Marcelo, CEO general manager; and Jason McKimm, CEO marketing manager

Nestlé Center bags 3 fire safety awards

THE NESTLE CENTER IN the fire safety measures and Rockwell, Makati reaped three practices implemented by the awards at the 9th Fire Safety company. The citations also rec-Compliance Awards Program ognized the continuing commitheld recently at the Makati City ment of Nestlé Center to protect Hall. The awards attest to the life and property in its premises quality of the fire safety fea- through the practice of proactures of the building as well as tive safety initiatives.



LCCM RECEIVES WORLD-CLASS CERTIFICATION

Proving its commitment to deliver quality service and academic excelience to its clientals, La Consolation Cottege Manila has recently been awarded the ISO 9001 2000 Quality Management System (QMS). The partificate was issued by Societe General Surveillance (SGS)-the world's leading inspection, verification and testing certification compamy based in Geneva, Switzerland, LC-CM's ISO 9001 2000 certification only validates the institution's devotion to high-quality standards as well as its continuous drive for enhancement and efficiency of service. Continuously striving to be at par with the academic institutions abroad LCCM devotes considerable effort in maintaining its drive for academic excelsence as well as continuous improvement of its management processes Shown at the formal awarding ceremony, from left, are Sr Ma. Luz Mijares OSA, Asolo Superior General and LCCM BOT chair and LCCM. president Sr. melda A. Mora OSA receiving the ISO 9001 2000 compliance certificate from SGS CEO Rosario Cajucom-Bradburry

The building won the Fire Safety Compliance Award for the sixth consecutive year for having fully complied with the requirements of the Fire Code of the Philippines and the National Building Code of the Philippines and their implementing rules and regulations in terms of completeness, installation, maintenance and periodic testing and upkeep of fire prevention and safety systems

The Center also won the Building Fire Brigade Award for the second time since 2004. The award recognized the building's exemplary practice of organizing, training and equipping its fire brigade, thereby ensuring its effectiveness and readiness to perform its task in case of fire emergencies.

The last award won by Nestlé Center was the Corporate Fire Safety Award which was also won by the building in 2005. The award recognized the Center's safety organization and safety program, for sustaining its proactive safety initiatives.

More than 1,000 buildings in Makati participated in the awards program. Nestlé Center was among the 50 that were given awards by the screening committee after a stringent evaluation process. Nestlé Center was required to submit complete documentation and undergo an interview by the screening committee. Evaluation included physical inspection of the building.

The awards program was organized by the Makati Fire Safety Foundation Inc. (Mafsafi) together with the City of Makati (including Fire Department and the Office of the Building Official), Rotary Club of Makati and Makati Commercial Estate Association, Inc (Macea)



ORIONELEC IS ACER'S NEWEST DISTRIBUTOR

Acer Philippines Inc recently confirmed the appointment of Orionelec Philippines inclas 5th distributor in the country. Orioneted will manage. channels for Acer commercial desktops, notebooks and LCDs. Established in 2000, Orionelec Philippines inc, formerly known as Erroway baiyon Philippines Inc. Initially engaged in the stationery business, it has since diversified into the distribution of computers and IT. products with focus on small and medium business segments and tocal government units. Ortopelec is: under the Thakral Group of Companies, one of Simpapore's largest homegrown congiomerates with op-

erations spanning 35 countries and employing more than 10,000 people worldwide The Thakral Group provides iT products, services and support in most emerging markets as well as in Europe and the United Status. Acer is establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with reputable groups such as Orlonelec to further expand its distribution network in the Phisppines and reach a bigger base of users. Shown (from lett) are Aila de Ocampo, general manager of Orione ec Philippines Inc. BS Kumar, chief executive offiper, Orionales Philippines inc. and Manual Wong, general manager of Acer Philippines

Real estate exec breaks new ground

Kaiku Licuanan is now his own boss at 63

ARCHITECT'S

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

T A TIME WHEN most people his age are content to just take it easy, play golf or travel around the world, 63-year-old Francisco H. Licuanan III is breaking ground.

After retiring as president of Ayala Land Inc., the country's leading real estate development company, after 40 years of service; a year's stint as head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Subic-Clark Adjance for Development and a two-year attempt at consulting, Licuanan is now trying his hand at heing an en- organization steer the compatrepreneur.

Licuanan and former colleagues and investors have put up Geo Estate Development Corp., which is going up against his former company with its maiden project-The Beacon, a residential condominium project at the corner of Chino Roces Makati City.

"I'm excited again," says work for himself Licuanan, adding that it feels good to be at the front line says. again and in the thick of a development project.

tions has its perks, but Licuanan has to be a success.

says he was not too happy about it because he is not used to being detached, to just be called on to give advice.

"You have to be detached because you cannot be sure if your advice is going to be taken. You cannot demand that they follow your advice," he explains.

For someone who has always been committed to seeing his plans through, it was a tough adjustment to make, and he's glad that with Geo Estate, he is again free to be passionately involved in projects

"I'm so used to being on the line... to being emotionally committed to a plan," Licuanan

Such commitment helped Licuanan and the Ayala Land my from a spin-off unit of Ayala Corp. in 1989 into the multibillion-peso company it is to-

The Atenean and Harvard graduate could have also opted to jump at the chance to again be a chief executive of big corporations here, but he says that and Ramon Arnaiz Avenues in after 40 years of working for somebody else, it was time to

It is quite a change, Licuanan

On the negative side, he says he has to work with limited re-Being a consultant to one of sources and his margin for error reaucracy between you and the the country's biggest corpora- is more limited. Every project



says he is now much closer to

"You don't have layers of bumarketplace. You can focus more on the actual business. (budget sessions, personnel) and on outside audiences like the government or investors,"

"In essence, you are more of a "doer" and less of an administrator. I prefer this since ! raphy. have always been a doer. I enjoy doing things. Ayaw ke ng "pamanage manage lang," he

Licuanan also says that as an entrepreneur, he can actually take more risks unlike before when he had to deal with other people's money.

"In a similar vein, you can decide to give a better product even if it means making less money because you don't have third parties telling you that you have to maximize profits. For example, in "The

On the plus side, Licuanan or less than our competition. This is our decision because we wanted a product we can be proud of and we don't have to justify this to anyone else. In a large, publicly listed corporation, you may have to jus-You don't have to spend so tify this to some fund manager much time on administration or analyst who believes that a corporation exists only to make money for the stock-

> he also has more time to pursue his other passions, like photog-

He just came back from Africa where he went on safari. Some things remain the same, however, like business

Licuanan says he is bringing to Geo Estate the same principles that have helped define Ayala Land—that of giving to the customer what he paid for

As Licuanan always says, "good enough is never good chambermaids.

and going the extra mile for

enough." "Real estate is very easy to understand. What we do is push

holders," he says.

And since he is his own boss,

ance between art and sci- over in 2011.

The Beacon is the first of three towers to be put up in the area. It stands 44 stories tall with amenities that include # 450-square-meter pool, 300-meter jogging trail with exercise stations, 225sq.m. two-level gym and 7,000 sq.m. of landscaped gardens, as well as services such as a lobby concierge, shuttle and

Buyers can choose among studio rype, two-bedroom, three-bedroom, garden and loft units with prices ranging

attention to detail that makes it from P1.4 million to P9 mildifficult. A lot of art goes into lion

FRANCISCO H. Licuarian III enters the ranks of the entrepreneurs

Construction will go full blast He believes that with The early next year, and the units of Beacon, he hit the right bal- the first tower will be turned

> Being the first project ne can truly call his own, Licuanan is anxious but at the same time confident that he has himself a

And it is a good time to take risks with the real estate sector on the upswing.

This is why Licuanan is putting his own money and those of partners and investors on The Beacon, which is just the first of many that he plans to put up through Geo

With Licuanan at the helm, it is almost a sure bet.



Beacon," we are giving a superior product at the same price dirt and pour cement. It is the Helping people make a new beginning

"Giving" By Bill Clinton Alfred A. Knoff, 2007

By Dante M. Velasco Contributor

GIVING, IT IS A WORD THAT instantly reminds you of a virtue that is much spoken of but is less practiced.

And yet it EXECUTIVE is also one READ word that doesn't

fail to challenge you to make a choice. Are you giving, or are you taking? Are you a giver or a

Of course, many are so busy climbing the corporate ladder that the question does not bother them at all. They are possessed by the acquisitive imthey own, how famous they are, or how much power they wield.

This philosophy-and practice—of giving are supposed to be the pre-occupation of businessmen philanthropists, religious workers, members of civil society, fund raising specialists, academicians and the wonderful folks in public relations who have the additional expertise of fund raising.

Truth to tell, this author was involved in a survey commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) more

of which revealed something heartwarming about us Filipinos, even in the midst of so much poverty and of pervasive economic difficulties.

heart" to give to worthy causes like education for the youth, the peoples sounds so real. welfare of women and the health of individuals.

Cautious admiration

And yet the refreshing-if not startling news is that a famous and controversial former American President like Bill Clinton will author a book, simply titled "Giving." The sub-title "How Each of Us Can Change the World" is, in journalistic parlance, "editorializing."

Curiosity (why would Clinton be writing of giving when pulse, and they validate their he can have a memoir on geoexistence or value by how much political realities, for example?) gives way to cautious admiration when you read the introduction and there you are introduced to a gentie soul who learned about giving by "nthing" in a church, and who was actually giving of himself in various teen-driven projects.

> Then you note that this is not your usual "giving" book that should serve as the resource guide of grant-seekers and because—from fund-raisers, giving money, time, things and traditional (the

than five years ago, the findings view) -author Clinton speaks of "gifts of reconciliation and new beginnings."

And so you jump to chapter six and change your impression about this American President Our countrymen "have the whose conviction about bringing peace to conflict-ridden

> All at once, you get a ringside seat seeing scenes of a leader in the thick of the action in Ireland, the Middle East, Rwanda, etc., believing with the author that, in the midst of people "torn apart by group violence, you have the ability to see others as people—to respect them, communicate with them, live alongside them and, yes, forgive them."

You read about Nelson Manformed a government bringing into his Cabinet even his fiercest critics, who dishes out a message for our time in this country "The only way to face the future was to let go of the

New beginnings

Clinton's accounts of "givers" involved in bringing in "new beginnings" expand and deepen our view of "giving." The author speaks about a woman who lost nine of her own children, but who recently gave birth to a days-old baby. She asked Clinton to give him a name, and

Clinton said there must be a local language to denote "new beginning." There was such a word: "Dawn"-which became the baby's name.

Another form of giving is "organizing markets for the public good." Clinton speaks of Walmart, which greatly reduced its energy use, saving 324,000 tons of coal, 67 million gallons of oil. and saving 3,800 trees by changing its packaging.

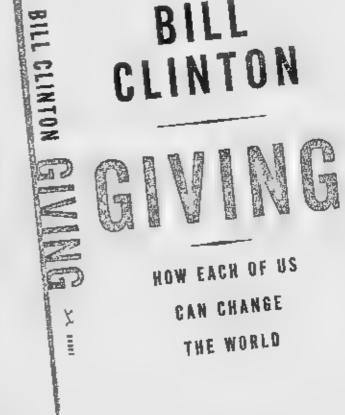
Actually, Clinton also deals with the traditional avenues of giving like giving money with difference: He gives us mindboggling facts and figures.

For example, the Bill and Melinda Gates Poundation have given more than a billion dollars for healthcare in Africa and dela of South Africa who India. Some people organized groups like "Make a Wish" (like the local version Wish Ko Lang") where children with hiethreatening medical conditions live their dreams before they

What matters

The book is meant to be read once-to get a perspective of the expanded dimensions of giving provided by a leader "who has been there done that" in a big way, and who has "put has money where his mouth is" by organizing the Clinton Development Initiative.

Then, the book must be read



twice to allow all those strate- do something more with one gies, names and details to sink in-because they comprise a vast menu of options for any executive's plan to enrich his CSR (corporate social responsibility) programs.

read a third time as you con-

"last full measure of devotion"

The book recounts Clinton's talk with Andre Agassi who put up a school called Agassi Prep, and author Chnton' quotes something that shouldn't fail to And then the book must be challenge anyone "Winning a tennis tournament doesn't comtemplate what really matters in pare to the anticipation of what this life, what you want to do these kids will do with their for the rest of your existence, Lves "Speaking of giving, that's especially when you are quite the most powerful "serve" Agasblessed with fame and for- si delivered (dantemvelus tune-and yet feel that you can co@yahoo.com)



IM THES ESSUE

☑ Tessa in pursuit of happiness/C4 atHOME with the very cool Anton Ramos /F1

And she just couldn't difficulty is in finding and crystallizing that stop reading perfect moment that makes our hearts skip a beat and see beauty By Grace Shangkuan Koo Contributor in gray reality T WAS HER EUREKA MOMENT-

word for water.

about two years and nine months old when she vocalized the words with un-

derstanding and discovered she could

read. She was actually reading! 'She

laughed gleefully, pattering around the

living room holding her newfound love-a Ladybird book of "Sleeping

Not exactly her kind of story, but the

magnificence and magic of words sud-

denly dawned on her. And as if visited by

the fairy godmother, she went out of her

character and read a page aloud to her

aunt, who had happened to drop by in

The importance of being useless

By Crystal Gail Shangkuan Koo Contributor

LL ART IS QUITE USE-less," wrote Oscar Wilde with great flourish nearly 120 years ago as he ended the preface to "The Picture of Donan where I was studying Creative Writ-

When I was studying literature in the University of the Philippines, people would ask what my course was, get an answer, give a polite pause, and then ask curiously what I intended to do with it. In Sydney, Gray," It's something with which I ing, someone advised me to simul-

taneously get another, more practical degree so as not to be left out in

In Hong Kong, a friend of mine told her own friend about what I had been studying all my life, and her friend apparently recoiled in

THE IMPORTANCE/ C2

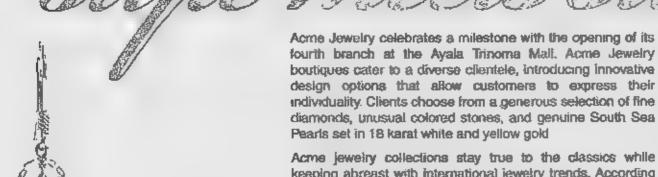
A mother talks about her early-reader daughter and the rewards not unlike Helen Keller when she finally understood that there was a of having discovered the magic of words Crystal, our daughter, must have been

> the midst of this serendipitous encounter.

Words and worlds

This fascination for words followed Crystal everywhere. I remember we were at the pediatrician's clinic for a monthly checkup. Crystal reached for the medicine box on the table, took out the instruction sheet and decoded the contraindications! On our way home she couldn't stop reading street signs aloud.





Acme jewelry collections stay true to the classics while keeping abreast with international lewelry trends. According to head designer Maribel de Dios, "Fashion is the source of inspiration behind our jewelry. This year, romantic swirts, cascading gems, soft colors, and whimsical details are very much in demand."

Apart from the specialty collections, Aome also offers custom

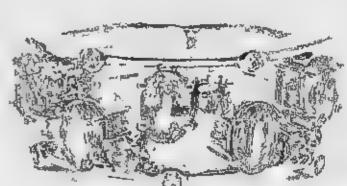
For added convenience, clients can take advantage of Acme's flexible layaway plans.

Acme Trinoma is the latest step in the expansion of Acme Jewetry. The company is opening more branches in the outlying areas of Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

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Above: A series of 18k white gold rings with round brilliant-cut diamonds and coloured gernstones such as a blue topaz, pink sapphires, citrine, fonden blue, peridot, amethyst, and coloured sapphires. Left: A pair of silm chandelier earrings in white gold with citrine briolette and beads accented with small diamonds, and dangling earnings with yellow oro verde stones and diamonds. Below: A matching set of ring & earnings with multi-hued oval sapphires and white diamonds.





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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Let's do the math on RP's poor math education

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

■ EENAGER JONATHAN ALDRIC Chua garnered honorable mention at the 48th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Hanoi, Vietnam last July. The IMO is the most prestigious math fest in the world, with more than 500 contestants from nearly a hundred nations competing this year. Chua represented the Philippines, together with Tobit James Narciso, Darren Mendell Sy, Jeffrey Kenneth Go, Stephanie Anne Oliveros, and Carlo Francisco Adajar. They were coached by team leaders Ian Garces and Timothy Teng from the Ateneo de Manila University Math Department.

In 1959, the first IMO took place in Romania, with participants from the Eastern bloc. Since then, the IMO has expanded to five continents, with contestants not older than 20 years old.

In 1984, Filipino students performed well in the Australian Math Competition, so the Philippines was invited to compete in the IMO. Under the tutelage of head coach Jose Marasigan, four high school students traveled to Canberra in 1988, and Ateneo High School senior Victor Luchangco bagged the honorable mention, missing the bronze medal by just one point.

In the IMO, creativity, rigor, and perseverance are required. Speed is not so much emphasized as clarity of solution. On each of two days, contestants have to solve three problems in four and a half hours. Afterwards, leaders and their deputies coordinate with each other to discuss whether evalua-

tions have been done well.

Intensive training

"My parents were my first teachers in life and in math," Chua said. "My mom opened my eyes to the beauty of



JONATHAN Aldric Chua receives honorable mention in the premier math fest in the world.

numbers. Then my teachers in Saint Jude Catholic School, the trainors from the Mathematics Trainers' Guild and the professors from Ateneo and the University of the Philippines inspired me. Aside from textbooks, I read other math books either for recreation or for supplementary knowledge."

Garces and Teng thank several sectors for helping in the selection and training, such as Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Math Society of the Philippines, Metrobank Foundation, and Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. Intensive training sessions were held in Antipolo, Ateneo and UP, and for a couple of days last May, a former coach of the Canadian mathematics team lectured the team

The team faced many problems. "The students did not have enough math background," said Garces. "They encountered some basic concepts only during training. True, they knew some

theory, but they lacked deep understanding, just like swimmers who knew strokes theoretically, but come swim time, would sink."

"The Philippine ambassador in Vietnam lamented the education system in our country," Teng said. "Only three countries have basic education of less than 12 years, and we are one of them. If we are to make any significant progress, changes must be done, particularly in math."

"When Romania learned that its best students were not able to solve more than half of the problems during the 1959 IMO, its education ministry changed the curriculum of the science high schools towards deep thinking," Garces said. "Sad to say, this is not happening here. Our science high schools want college math, such as calculus, but the students cannot even prove basic math concepts. They focus on computations rather than critical thinking. Leave college math to college, and concentrate on high school math to deepen understanding of the basics.

"The best trainers for the IMO should be high school teachers. They teach the students five days a week. Though difficult, it is not impossible to learn problem solving. I hope that the deputy leader in the future would come from a high school."

Big event

Chua said he was excited during the IMO, especially when he solved perfectly this problem. In triangle ABC, the bisector of angle BCA intersects the circumcircle again at R, the perpendicular bisector of BC at P, and the perpendicular bisector of AC at Q. The mid point of BC is K and the midpoint of AC is L. Prove that the triangles RPK and RQL have the same area.

The best problem solvers are all



OUR TEAM takes a break at the Philippine embassy in Hanol. (Left column, front to back) Jeffrey Go, Tobit Narciso, Jonathan Chua, Darren Sy; (right column, front to back) Carlo Adajar, deputy Timothy Teng, leader lan Garces, Stephanie Oliveros

here," said Garces. "I met my idol, the well rounded, good in number theory, Polish coach. Imagine the Olympics, where basketball players from other countries play against their NBA idols! But with the help of new friends, especially the Singaporeans, I was able to play the game with the others."

The IMO taught me fortitude and perseverance," Chua said, "No matter how difficult the problem is, we cannot give up without trying our best. The IMO also aims to foster friendship among contestants. We gained a lot of friends during our stay, from countries such as Albania, Taiwan, Montenegro, and New Zealand."

The future

Chua did well in the IMO, but the Philippine team placed 84th out of 93 countries. How can we do better?

Future contestants, Garces advised, should not wait for teachers to give problems. "The Internet is a good source of review materials. Hard work will do the rest. Contestants must be hoo com-

combinatorics, geometry and algebra. Mastering only one area is not enough "

But Teng said, "It's all about balance Contestants should be disciplined during training, not only because they are representing our country, but also be cause opportunities like the IMO are rare. Many students would love to be in their position. But at the same time, contestants should enjoy the moment-It's important to create an environment that will allow them to be comfortable with each other Contestants should not think of the IMO as a competition among themselves, but rather they should push each other to become

Chua agreed "Never be afraid of difficult questions. Take the contest seriously, but enjoy the process. After all, math is fun "

E-mail the author at blessbook@ya-

The importance of being useless Frompage CI

Even Plato had poets exiled from his ideal Republic because they were liars and a colossal waste of breathing space.

In defense, Sir Philip Sydney, in 16th-century, schoolboy pilosopo style, argued that poets never said they were telling the truth in the first place, and Matthew Arnold proclaimed that culture is the sign of true civilization.

I happen to think that writing-and all art for that matter-is a soapbox, with which we can get a glimpse of a life other than our own once in a

Sometimes I think we take for granted how large the world really is. We tend to think of ourselves as the protagonists of the story of the world. The world is all about us, and without us the world just cannot exist.

Try imagining the world without you and you will find the same unwillingness to imagine that the unperturbed world will keep on turning its merry way after you die. The rigors of surviving simply force us to forget how many other protagonists there are in this world.

Different histories

The world's population is currently 6.6 billion. That's 6.6 billion different histories altogether, each one with its own context, language, plot, twist and resolution. This means that when you're in a crowded, that inert knowledge into felt silent elevator, each person who is staring at the blinking numbers above you has his or her own drama unfolding at that writers are people who try to very moment. It just so happened that this tiny part of his or her story has involved stepping into an elevator, with you as an extra.

Each person has a story because the world is cruel and merciful to us in many different ways, and if you dig deep enough, you'll find that none of the stories are ever boring, even stop. if you've only made up the story just from the way the person looked. Even the mere existence of a person already tells the story of two other people.

Now we all know that the ther readers or writers-how world is bigger than us, but like infinity, the idea of it is too surreal for our minds to fully grasp. What the people who write these stories do is transform new, in the appreciation of ture-her first entry.)



THE AUTHOR (above, right) at the 2007 Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature with mom Grace and (left) with Sen. Mar

flawed humanity.

awareness. The world is vast,

chaotic and painfully beautiful

in its ugliness and splendor, and

find order in that chaos to pro-

duce something our minds can

And this is by no means an

easy process. It's a challenge of

choosing details, filling gaps,

melding fact and fiction, getting

what is in one's mind "out

boundaries, knowing when to

In the end, art does not so

much reflect reality as it reveals

the spectator. It shows us as ei-

very little we truly know. The fi-

nal product is a kind of beauty

borne in the rush of experience,

in the realization of something

Revealing the spectator

accurately, setting

finally recognize.

And what use is all this beauty? What use does beauty have in the first place?

"Beauty is its own excuse for being," said Emerson to a flower 170 years ago, telling us in very elevated language that it's quite useless. The unanswerable question here is not so much why people write, but our own appetite for something greater than all of us.

The truth about writing is that anyone can do it. The difficulty is in finding and crystallizing that perfect moment that makes our hearts skip a beat and see, in the grayness of our mundane reality, a fleeting red of beauty.

"We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it," wrote Wilde. "The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely."

E-mail the author at crystal@koo.org.

(Editor's Note: The author won third prize for her short story "Benuto Salazar's Last Creation" in the 2007 Palanca Memorial Awards for Litera-

And she just couldn't

my research journals.

As a primary grade student, she'd come down the stairs at 6:30 a.m. to take her breakfast while holding a book. Gulping down the cereal with the spoon on her right hand, her left hand would turn the pages quite adeptly.

In our travels I found her, a toddler, sitting primly on a quiet corner at the airport reading a book that she bad prepared for the long waits. Every trip thereafter, she would agonize over which among her books she should keep herself from reading so she could reserve it for long flights.

While she enjoyed physical activities during travels, Crystal did not mind doing the rounds of cultural visits. She busied herself reading texts of historical backgrounds and explanations of exhibits and experiments in art and science museums.

Certainly a bit precocious for a 5-year-old but she was a shy little girl, absorbed in a world of words and fantasy, I learned that this childhood introversion is a characteristic of serious readers. She was all ears for stories-real or fiction. She listened intently to tour guides narrating legends of a country's origins. The real stories in "saga proportion" that her maternal aunts narrated also made for a rich store of resources.

Rhyming and writing

When I first discovered that she was creating non-sense and sensible rhymes while lying on her bed, I placed a tape recorder near her bed. I picked up pieces of scribbled verses that she wrote on the back of used pad papers when she was in grade school. She wouldn't hear of showing any of her "writings" to others, always saying they were nothing. But I noticed the rhymes and meters, parallelisms and proper syntax.

When she was in third year from us.

I was a doctorate student grade, she was reading C.S. The whose family knows the then, and she wanted to read. Lewis, At that age she already mooks and corners of these knew she wanted to be a writer. In sixth grade, she took out her Dad's yellowing copies of Tolkien's books and could not stop reading, dissecting and discussing the author with his Dad until she exhausted her thoughts on Tolkien for her eventual UP thesis, which earned her a perfect grade of

> In her late elementary and high school years she would keep spiral notebooks of her hand-written stories. She brought one of those to school to put in more entries during recess time, and before long her friends discovered the notebook and circulated it among the students free reading for all. Her classmates actually "demanded" a new "chapter" each day. She was earnest to live up to that expectation

Unusual choices

Her favorite gifts were heavy dictionaries and thesauruses, books on the origins of words and languages, and anthologies of all genres of writings—unusual great choices for a kid, but she was actually reading them from page to page! She taught me the word "atavism" when I said she was so unlike me, in terms of fondness for clothes, but so like her grandmother.

Visits to bookstores were the best treats of all. First, it was the young reader's section of National Book Store, then Barnes & Noble in the US (where we had to make a stop in every city), and further on, Amazon.com for the wish list.

Then came the first Power-Books on, Pasay Road in Makati, then Page One at Rockwell (later changed to Fully Booked) There was also Kinokunoya on Orchard Road in Singapore, and beside City Hall in Sydney, Eslite in Taiwan, and Page One in Times Square, Hong Kong, which sometimes got three visits a

Crystal always chose her books well. She would start with a big bunch of books. My only rule was: three classics and three modern titles for each visit. From her grab of some 20 books, she'd painfully eliminate those of lesser value, which could wait, be borrowed in school or would not be read again! Even at a young age, she could discern degrees of literary excellence. Her book collection in her room, now spilling to the family room, makes for a library of excellent selections.

Winner twice over

Crystal went on to major in Anglo-American Literature at UP, graduating magna cum laude in 2005 After a year in Beijing to complete a Mandarin certificate program, she went to University of New South Wales in Sydney for her MA in Creative Writing and graduated July this year (with distinction). Currently, at 22, she teaches high school English in an international school in Hong Kong.

Her greatest joy these past two weeks have been to be named winner in two major literary competitions: first prize for her poem "Corridor" in the University of New South Wales' literary journal Unsweetened, and third prize in the Palanca Awards for her short story "Bentto Salazar's Last Creanon"-her first attempt in this presugious awarding body.

She said the reason for this brave attempt was that, since winning a Palanca would be something so unexpected, if she didn't hear anything about her entry, she wouldn't feel disappointed. The day after the awards night, on our way to the airport, she reflected with a smile: "I thought a Palanca would be something I'd get when I am old and gray..."

E-mail author at grace@koo.org

distribute on a second of the

ROOTS AND WINGS Cathy Babao-Guballa

Dengue and rainy-day diseases

TOGETHER WITH THE RAINS COME dreaded childhood diseases such as pneumonia and dengue—illnesses that strike not only children but adults

Our good friend, Cris Paraso, city editor of Businessworld, is still at the Medical City (MC) as of this writing, due to a bad bout with dengue. Unfortunately, it was not only Cris, but his three daughters as well who got sick, two of them landed in the ICU for a few days, due to the same illness. Only his wife, Ruth, was spared from dengue but you can begin to imagine her stress levels keeping watch over three daughters and a husband. It's a good thing that our home church, Greenhills Christian Fellowsh.p, threw in their full moral and spiritual support and thankfully, all of them are on the way to recovery.

Yesterday I was at our pediatrician's clinic and noted that there were a higher number of patients waiting in ine, Dr. Joseph Regalado, who has been taking care of my children for the last 10 years, confirmed that there was an increase in the number of dengue, upper respiratory ailments and pneumonia patients over the last month or so. This was also confirmed to me by Dr. Cynthia Juico who chairs the school health program of the Philippine Pediatrics Society and the Department of Ped.atrics over at Manila Doctors. She also tord me that when she was in Bacolod last week, she noted that there were a high number of dengue cases being reported.

Pneumonia is a lung infection that can be caused by different types of germs, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Although different types of pneumonia tend to affect chil-

Prevention is still the best solution



dren in different age groups, pneumonia is most commonly caused by viruses. When this happens, symptoms of pneumonia begin after two or three days of a cold or sore throat.

The incubation period for pneumonia varies, depending on the type of virus or bacteria causing the infection. Some common incubation periods are: respiratory syncytial virus, 4 to 6 days; influenza, 18 to 72 hours.

With treatment, most types of bacterial pneumonia can be cured within 1 to 2 weeks. Viral pneumonia may last longer. Mycoplasmal pneumonia may take 4 to 6 weeks to resolve completely.

The viruses and bacteria that cause pneumonia are contagious and are usually found in fluid from the mouth

or nose of an infected person. Illness can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes on a person, by sharing drinking glasses and eating utensils, and when a person touches the used tissues or handkerchiefs of an infected person

Dr. Juico suggests the following preventive measures to avoid pneumonia during the rainy season:

"Avoid crowded places such as malls. Infants and young children are especially prone to contracting airborne diseases. As much as possible avoid bringing your children to crowded areas unless necessary.

"Practice hand-washing as frequently as possible to avoid hand to mouth transmission of germs. Carry a hand samitizer in your bag.

"Remind all family members about the practice of covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing.

"Refrain from eating junk food and nuces as these can unitate the bacteria. present in the throat.

"Drink plenty of water, at least 8-10 glasses a day and take adequate amounts of vitamin C. Get enough sleep and rest to keep your immune system up. Take your vitamins daily."

No joking matter

Dengue fever on the other hand is a flu-like illness that is spread by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito.

Dengue is no joking matter, and every year, at around this time all the way until January of February, parents need to be very conscious of this disease and take precautions to prevent the mosquito from visiting their

School administrators need to be aware of the number of dengue cases that hit their school's population. Schools with construction sites oncampus should be more vigilant about hygiene measures so that their stu-

I came across a highly informative brochure on Dengue, produced by their Center for Patient Partnership; it describes the onset of Dengue fever as starting suddenly with a high fever, rash, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains.

dents are adequately protected.

Nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite are common symptoms. A rash usually appears three to four days after the start of the fever. Anyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito can get dengue fever

Risk factors of dengue hemorrhagic fever include a person's age and immune status, as well as the strain of the

Persons previously infected with one or more types of the virus are at greater risk for developing severe dengue hemorrhagic fever if infected

There are no vaccines as of yet and the key preventive measure is to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Remember that the Aedes mosquito lives and breeds in clean, stagnant water. Observe the following preventive

 Regularly inspect your surroundings and discard items that can collect rain or run-off water - old tires, plant pots, roof gutters, plants with very huge leaves, drums that contain water should be covered at all times. Regularly change water in outdoor bird baths and pet and animal containers.

 Use mosquito repellants. OFF mosquito repellant now has several variants, one to suit every need. Johnson and Johnson also have a product that is safe for infant skin. I also discovered an all-natural repellant available at GIGA over at Tiendesitas that protects just as well. Spray or rub the repellant on your skin and clothes.

 Burn citronella or euca.yptus oil in an aromatherapy burner to ward of these pesky mosquitoes and other

 While outdoors, during times that mosquitoes bite-from 5 to 8 a.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m.-wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

 If you experience any of the dengue symptoms, report these to your doctor right away

Be extra vigilant during the wet reason. It's always better to be safe than

Email the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Good read for first-time parents

BABY MAGAZINE'S September issue focuses on first-time parenting. Preparing for your first baby becomes easier with checkusts on mustbrings, articles on signs of labor and anecdotes from husbands and dads about their fateful trip to the hospital, with tips for firsttimers on how to make the trip go more smoothly.

There's also a feature on understanding in-laws and how to make it a win-win situation when your spouse's parents seem to be taking over your life.

Other topics covered in this latest ussue of Baby are fun mom-baby bonding activities, dealing with a toddier during the terrible two's, natural healing methods for kids' diarrhea and vomiting, insights on keeping a child secure when one of the parents is away, and tips on making and following a family budget.

Feature stories include the fascinating waterbirth expe-



rience of Velvet Roxas, the first successful waterbirthing patient at Asian Hospital and Medical Center and the first recorded hospital waterbirth case in the country.

In the pregnancy pages, discover solutions to a sagging self-image during pregnancy and ways to encourage greater involvement from your husband during those months before delivery.

Baby magazine is available nationwide at National Bookstore, SM Department Store baby section, Baby & Co., Babyland, Power Books, Bufim and selected Maginet plus out.ets. Call 7283655/56

COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER

Delighting You Always

He ran to SELPHY because he only had a moment to make sure his grandfather leaves with a smile. Make Someone

Нарру

Express delivery for students

DHL, THE WORLD'S LEADING tions include the USA, United express and logistics company, has launched DHL Student Express, a new express delivery service designed exclusively for students who plan to study

and reliable retail express service that facilitates the transport of school application forms, transcripts of records and other important school documents overseas. Personal items such as books and clothing may also be sent to school 2.5-5 kg. dormitories through Student Express.

DHL Student Express will assist the large number of Filipino students who aspire to continue their studies abroad. Over 1.6 million students from across the line for delivery inquiries. Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, apply to educational institutions overseas.

Some of the popular destina-

Kingdom, Australia, France, Canada, Japan, Germany, Spain, New Zealand, Singapore, India, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Switzerland.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE



CHING Montinols, Mercy Tuason, Rupert Jacinto, Tessie Luz and National Artist Arturo Luz



RIBBON-CUTTING. Andy Bautista, Sandie Poblador, Elmee Cragim, Ambassador Ryu Yamazaki, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Jacinto, Marivic Vazquez, David Lim and Tina Jacinto



CONSUL Agnes Hulbonhoa, Heloise Romueldez and Tina Jacinto

Passion and the search for happiness



ALEXI Alunan and Mariel Santos

TOURISM Undersecretary

PAT CARLOS and Jame Bautista

Cynthia Carrion

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPIness is a lifelong search. The journey is made worthwhile by memorable experiences and friendships made along the way. Along the way, those who find enlightenment often agree that the challenge is not about acquiring the most assets but about finding passion ın everyday life.

And it is in what we are passionate about that each one of us differs Take world-class photographer Rupert Jacinto, whose new passion is mixedmedia photography. At his wellattended cocktail reception at the St. Francis Shangri-La Place, the "Nieuw Art" exhibit presented Jacinto's mural artworks in photography, computer graphics on canvas and acrylic painting. The exhibit also featured the dazzling abstract installations of Jaime Ponce de Leon.

The guest of honor, Ambassador Ryu Yamazaki of Japan, was all praises in his glowing remarks and invited Rupert to exhibit in Japan. This lovable ambassador is headed back home as his term is over but he has his Filipino friends.

Hours after the ribbon-cutting ceremonies with the other guests of honor like Makati HSBC's Nanoo and deputy CEO Mayor Jejomar Binay and Shangri-La chair Andy Bautista five Jacinto artworks were raffled off to very lucky

wine provided by Tita Trillo of Titania and a buffet spread by St. Francis Shangri La Place, Eimee Cragun and Divine Lee. The event was presented in cooperation with Remy Martin Avatar and Paradise Mango Rum.



JAYMI'S Grill owners Jaymi, Juanmi and Queenie Laurel with friends

Jenny and Edward Chua, and Isabel Barandiaran

To the unenlightened like me, happiness equals shopping, and there is nothing like the HS-

BC Mabuhay Visa to assist in this pursuit. HSBC recently launched the new FastFlights feature of their credit card to further sweeten the package (cal. 85-800 or visit www.hsbc.

According to HSBC's SVP for marketing and product development, Suresh Nanoo, cardholders can now buy extra miles with their HSBC Mabuhay Miles Visa, which helps them earn even more miles. And from now until Nov. 30, cardholders get two miles for the price of one. It may not be the path to enlightenment, but sure is tempting

At the HSBC Card's fun-filled launch at the Rizal Ballroom of Shangri-La Makati, famous tour guide and event host Carlos Celdran urged guests to earn miles by taking the Promdi Challenges and everyone happily rose to the occasion.

Tourism Undersecretary Cynthia Carreon paddled a canoe in the Cagayan de Oro setting while determined designer Rajo Laurel biked back and forth on the bike trail in the Camarines Sur area His energy allowed him to earn the most promised to keep close ties with miles and win a free ticket to the local destination of his

Awarding the winners were Martin Cook, as well as Philippine Airlines president Jimmy Bautista and VP for marketing Felix Cruz. The foursome raffled off enough raffle prizes to The art-loving guests enjoyed ensure that a good many in the crowd would be assisted in their journey toward enlightenment. Annie Guerrero of C2 Classic. The grand raffle prize was a Cuisine. Major sponsors were ticket to Hong Kong, won by a truly enlightened guy, Ipe



My own HSBC card has been heavily swiped at the recent slew of Greenbelt 5 event parties, such as the recent cocktails for Butch Carungay's Avatar and the opening of funky, talented designer Kate Torralba's new shop. Both Kate and Butch hail from Cebu and the island's creativity is truly showcased at their GB5 outlets

The very bubb,y Butch has the most lavishly awesome fashion accessories, to my mind. For a die-hard accessory queen, his creations are heavenly divine. With Avatar opening at GB5, thanks to him and his Manila partner Mia Florencio, I no longer have to trek to Cebu to see the pieces from his latest collections. Faux diamonds are truly my best friends!



Speaking of creativity from outlying islands, the 22nd Negros Trade Fair is coming soon This edinon will be held at the Rockwell Tent on Oct. 3-8 The Land of Sugar now generates sweeter-looking products like furniture and furnishings, gifts and houseware, fashion and accessories This annual fair has also lots of food delicacies that like sisig, crispy pata, inthaw na are favorites of my kids.

chocolate, but I can't indulge in it nowadays since it's reportedly bad for the voice, and I must keep whatever little voice I have for my, ahem, singing stint on TV

My passion is

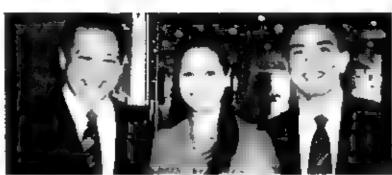
TESSA! Tessa Prieto Valdes



MANUAL Cartualiares with. statuesque



NEGROS Trade Fair girls Reena Peña, Ina Gaston and Mary Ann Colmenares



PAGCOR chair Efram Genuino and new Mrs. Fields' owners Sheryl and Gerwyn See





HSBC PRiadles Johanna Garcia and Cat Manese



BIKRAM yoga instructor Tristan Choa and Sanya Faustmann

The variety of Negros prod ucts has expanded from just the usual Pinoy placemats and decor With infused materials of natural weaves or she..s, the new designs are quite impressive. This is one fair that will certainly be on my calendar!

Pinoy food

Our journey toward enlightenment is often found through food. Comfort food just hits the spot and is the perfect way to re-ax and relieve stress. In this area, there is nothing like Pinoy food

Real tasty Pinoy specialties

baboy, pinalutong na hito and mango freeze are now being served in Jaymi's Grill, which has found a new home at 802 Arnaiz Avenue, Makan

From its old place beside the mini-golf course at The Fort, Jaymi's Gril. (tel. 815270/81) has moved to a new location near Don Bosco, while still retaining its relaxed ambiance, wooden décor and reasonably priced Pinoy dishes.

With basement parking and a second floor with function rooms for 20-150 persons, this new family restaurant is great for lanch with officemates or just hanging out with friends



My own greatest passion in food is for chocolate. Unfortunately, I've been told that chocolate is bad for the throat, so I am not indulging these days as I am preserving what little voice I have for my continued stint on GMA's "Celebrity Duets."

it's a good thing I was able to eat lots of Mrs. Field's chocolate chip cookies and fudge brownles weeks ago when they opened the Mrs Fields Cafe on the cinema level of the super gigantic TriNoma Mall. The new café is a chocolate lovers nirvana, and also offers birthday cakes, coffee and yummy ge.ato ice cream.

For those days when one needs an extra dose of happiness, head to Mrs. Field's and get that happy smile on your face! It's one of the best things to find on life's journey toward enlightenment

the author seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



SALA owners Chico Angeles and Colin Mackay



CEBU beauty Amparito Limitier and Cebu designer Jun Escario



AVATAR team. Butch Carungay and Mia Florencio



[AYMI'S Grill guests Arsenic Laurel and Alex Prieto



TRAVELIFE Magazine editor Liza Cuenca, Lorraine Belmonte and Allana Montelibano



PAL VP for marketing Felix Cruz, HSBC Deputy CEO Martin Cook and Suresh Nanon



MRS. FIELDS' guests, former First Lady Imeida Marcos with Leica Carpo and Teyet **Pascual**

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So like and unlike

STORY ON PAGE D4



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Elevating Lifestyle the TREI Way

It's a heatic world that we live in. Too often we let the daily grind weer us down until we forget to see the good things that the has to offer. White work does have its own rewards, some-Rimes it's a trage sigh of relief to just stop and small the roses. We work hard. Why can't we enjoy life to the same degree? One new company is set to provide a positive enewer to that question: TRE

TREI stende for Total Recreational Experience Inc. It's a Mustyle memberahip club, meaning you join it as a member. paying a one-lime lifetime membership lee and plunking down minimal dues monthly. What TREI offers the curious is an elevaled quality of living achieved through convenience, time savings and recouping value.

A typical membership club offers privileges and access to a single physical facility. TREt offers so much more. As a luxury brand. It is enchored on gertnerships only with premium brands, as beltis TRE's target membership, the emerging "A" market, composed of successful entrepreneurs, upwarely mobila professionals, ambitious managers destined to climb the corporate tedder, celebrities who need their pempering and accompashed executives at the top of their game. TREI goes the distance, delivering unprecedented access to premium klestyla brands, auclusive avents, and personalized services.

What Exactly is TREI?

More than anything else, "what we're offering is convenience, time and value," explains TRE: Chief Executive Officer Ricky Gullerrez. "We deliver that through our premium brand partners and our TLC conclergs service by removing much of the bother that you'd normally have to face."

Discounts and rewards are a part of it. Flashing your TRE! Lifestyle Membership Card at any of TRE's partner establishments will get you preferential rates, discounts and other premicints. However, it's the ober-convenience that TRE's concerge service that adds immense value to this proposition.

"It's all about eddressing lifestyle needs," says Pain Davi-la-Pascual, TREfs Civel Operating Officer. [Our market is] busy, driven, successful, and they know what they wont. TREI puls together personalized lifestyle products and services, giving TRE members access to premium brands across different aspects of Mestylii. This includes travel, dining, luxury cars, events, even health care." It's in the specialized delivery plotform they've branded as TLC where TREI shines

TLC from the TRE! Lifestyle Counsolors Walk around Mahan at right and you'll find hordes of young

people miling about outside office buildings in the weathours of the morning. The Philippines is difficanter country, and it makes absoto maid the concept of the hotel conce business process outsourcing. The stands for TREI clastyle Counselor, your personal helpdosk available anyome. Touted to be the stronges concience platform ever. Tut' will help you sort out your needs and achedules, Just give your TLC a call at 438-TRE! (8734) Need someone to give you advice on how to impress an important client or where to take your data? Dist that number Whalever the need, be assured that assistance is only is phone call

Lest you doubt their powers, TREI Lifestyle Counselors are trained to guade, inform and assist you under the direct supervision of a Clefs d'Or Conderge, a member of the Union letterristionale des Concierges d'Holais, Les Clafs d'Or. Wish fulfilment is their sole role to life, achieving miracles through a work/wide network of handshakes and smiles

YLCs are trained to provide various indispensable services. These include assistance in booking worldwide travel and accommodations, reterral and reservation, debyery and messenger services, and even personal services such as personal shopping or lievel planning. Their capabilities are, by no means, limited to these key services. "The most deunting chellends our TLCs have had to face so far was to book a yaithi for a party just one day in advance," mentions Pascual. Yacitis typically need to be booked a month in advence in order to give the crew time to prepare the vessel.

Whalever the needs of its members. TREs is there to respond, whether you need to chader a private jet at short notice. or just have flowers delivered to the girl next door.

To become part of the exclusive TRE: family is simply a matter of signing up and investing in the lifetime membership fee and monthly dues. Three packages are available individual. Family and Corporate, each with their respective costs and particulars. The breadth of TRE's offerings to its members ensures banefite to averyone, whether you're a young upwertly mobile professional, a family man who wants to spend more Time with the toda, or a captain of industry.

Signing up immediately gives you your choice of reward: a P10,000 stropping sprea at a TREI Shopping Event or a Wellness Package, en Utamata Escape Travel Package to select locations such as Boracay, Palawan, or Bagulo and bonus airline miles. Should you be among the first 500 to become a TREI member, you also get the choice between having your monthly dues waived for the first year, or 2 room nights at the Hotal PonteFino in Betangas for five years.

As a TREI member, you will receive the TREI Lifestyle. Membership Card, with all its included privileges, access to the TREI conciençe service, and premium revands designed to enhance your Mestyle

To facilitate entry Into the world of TREI to the TREI Lifestyle Membership Card. Presenting this at partner estabhis hymenic automatically gives you preferential rates in top shalf resorts and holets, airlines, restaurants, business canters healthcare facilities, car rentals, as well as discouste and premiums from laxury brands.

If you're quite the party animal, TRE) is likewise heavily in volved in events. Need to jazz up your nightlin? TREI gives you VIP access to the hotiest concerts, entry into exclusive ashion shows, good seats at mover premieres and more.

Working with Brand Partners

Borng a knury Mastyle enabler, TREI partners only with brand names that are synonymous with elegance, class and exceptional quality. People Irust brand names and land to gravitate lowards such marked products and services. Thigh now we have over 9ity establishments as premium partners with over a hundred variants of products and services," details Pascual. "We work continually to grow that roster and right now we have BMW. Store Specialists Inc. 5 Nido Resorts, even Gymbores and The Medical City among our pertners." The list is long and illustrious, and encompasses multiple industries from iconic fashion brancis such as Farragaino and Prade, computing lifestyle brands like Crumpler and Power MAC Center, fine dining among all Chateau 1771 restaurants. among others, and hotels and resorts in top destinations.

Living the YREI Life

We walk this earth but once and it would be tragic for up to miss out on real living. Why hurry through life when it ends far toc abruptly? Ramember it's not the speed of life that matters. If show you actually live it. That's what TREs is all about. TRES fets you live your life the way you want to, at your own corre-

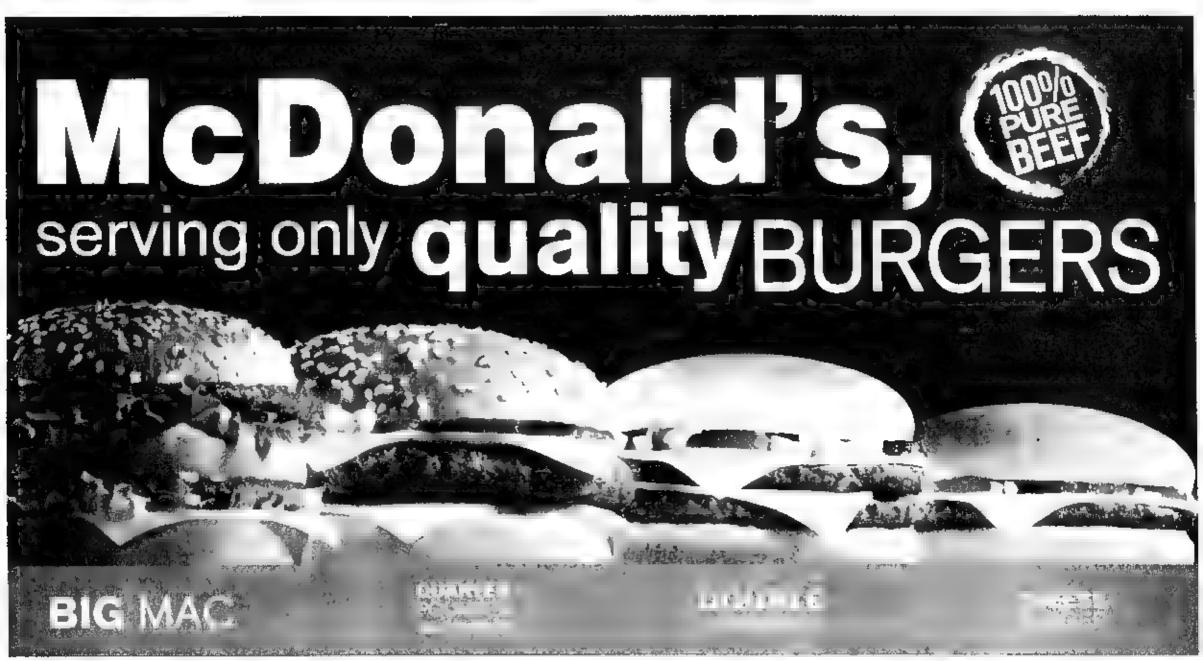
"You want it?" asks Pascual? "TRE: can make it happen

nience, in your sweet time, and reliabing it for all it's worth. And that's a promise '



e can make it nappen.





McDonald's is guided by four simple words: Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value (QSC&V). These are the words that shape the way McDonald's runs its stores and organization, serves its customers and most especially cooks its food.



This is the primary reason why McDonald's customers are assured that their favorite Cheeseburger and Quarter Pounder with Cheese are prepared and packaged at McDonaid's approved meat plants. Its patties are 100 percent pure beef with no additives and preservatives. The beef patties are grilled without fats and oil, with only salt and pepper for flavoring.



a series of steps to follow—steps that are carefully researched in the McDonald's test kitchens here and abroad for maximum QSC&V. And it

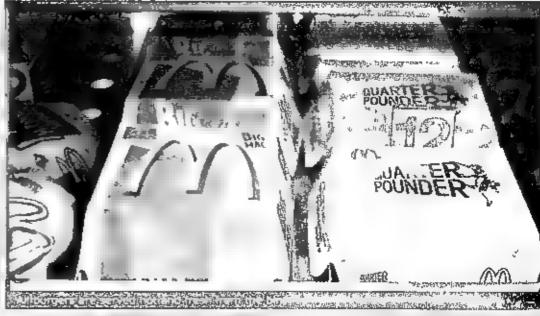
has to be executed in a kitchen where the pace is furious, the pressure is intense and crew members are darting in and out.















A Fresh Approach to Food

- Even before the beef arrives at the plant, our supplier conducts several separate quality checks on every batch.
- Greens like lettuce, used in the Big Mac and other sandwiches are grown and harvested by farmers who follow the McDonald's Agricultural Assurance Program. They are free from traces of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and are cut and processed on the same day to guarantee freshness and quality.





"Customers can feel at ease knowing they are getting only the freshest and best quality burgers at McDonaid's," says McDonaid's Vice President for Marketing Margot Torres



ZZHEIOUR DELIWERY





Sunday LIFESTYLE



SUTERA Harbour Resort's 104-berth Marina



MAGELLAN SUTERA, the other hotel building of the Sutera Harbour Resort, is named after the famous Portuguese explorer



SUNRISE at Nexus Resort Karambunai, another world-class resort

Sabah: So like and unlike MOMMe

ABAH'S HISTORIcal links and proximity to the Philippines make it a familiar name to Filipinos.

destination for Filipino travelers, it has become a land of opportunity for people looking for overseas work.

Hundreds of Filipinos travel cables. to Sabah via the nation's backdoor, finding livelihood there or greenery line the long and permanent residence.

not a ranty, often consisting of houses by the river or on stilts. In the heart of the city is what is known as a Filipino market, not Greenhills.

Filipinos are all over the place-from managers to staff members of various establishments and, of course, in bands playing in hotels and restaurants.

largest island, and is very near over gentle rapids, one passes Jolo. Only about a fourth of the Philippines in size, Sabah attracts more than two million tourists a year

It has world-class hotels and resorts as we, I as bed and breakfast establishments. Mount Kinabazu, the tallest in Southeast Asia at 4,095 meters, looms over the city though it is often shrouded in mist and clouds.

Sabah has named its capital, Kota Kinabalu, after the majestic peak, in reverence to the mountain. Kota, by the way, means city.

Until the mid-15th century, Sabah was under the Sultan of Sulu and Brunei. In 1881, the British North Borneo Chartered Company was set up to rule North Borneo. It administered Sabah until 1942 when the Japanese invaded.

After World War II, the British

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos Crown Colony. In 1963, Sabah gained her independence and joined the Federation of Malaysia

Scenic countryside

A tour of Sabah's countryside will make you feel like you have Though not yet a popular not left home. The scenery is very similar to the Philippines' rural areas, save for satellite discs for television broadcast reception and Internet and phone

Coconut trees and lush seemingly never-ending road. In Sabah, a Filipino village is Houses are far apart, with large windows often made of capiz. They are supported by sturdy, long wooden poles allowing for silong where hammocks are very different from Divisoria or hung or where locals keep produce and other items.

> It is easy to confuse the locals with Filipinos, since both belong to the Malay race. Even their language has many words similar to Tagalog.

The beautiful and scenic Kiu The second largest of lu River provides an exciting in-Malaysia's 13 states, Sabah is troduction to white-water rafton Borneo, the world's third ing. Riding down the stream



Filipinos are all over the place as managers or staff members of various establishments and, of course, in bands

lush green jungles and Dusun orchards and villages. Bikers cross the river through a hanging bridge.

At Khas Bruneian-Malay village, one finds wildlife like the endemic long-nosed proboscis monkey and various species of birds. On a moonless night, the mangrove-lined river is lit by thousands of fireflies.

Kinabalu Park at the foot of Mount Kinabalu is Malaysia's first World Hentage site. Much of Sabah's renowned eco-treasures can be found here. One does not need climbing skills to scale the jagged granute peaks of the mountain, but only has to be fit. It takes at least two days to complete the hike.

The Poring Hot Spring in Ranau has open-air Japanese-



SUSPENDED at 157.8 meters, the canopy walk was once used by scientists to do research on Sabah's million-year old ramforest.

style baths, its sulfuric water reputed to have properties to cure skin problems. A trek through the rainforest with at least 100foot canopies reveals life on treetops.

Highlights of the city tour include the Tun Mustapha Building, Sabah Museum, University Malaysia Sabah, Sabah State

Mosque and City Mosque, and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

World-class

The progressive city boasts of world-class resorts like the Sutera Harbour Considered as Asia's first fully integrated resort, it sits on 384 acres of glorious seafront property and consists of the Pacific Sutera and Magellan Sutera hotels with a combined 956 guest rooms and suites.

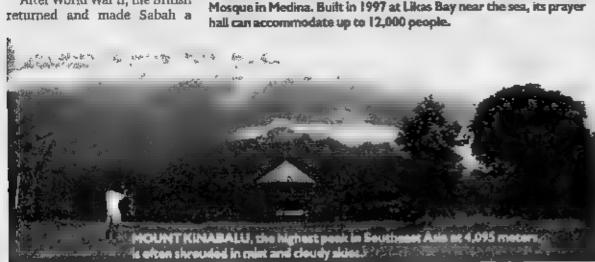
Nexus Resort Karambunai, another world-class resort, occupies 3,335 acres of natural and landscaped surroundings. The Karambunai Peninsula faces the South China Sea and has six kilometers of pristine whitesand beaches and a millionyear-old tropical rainforest

Sabah also has two Shangri-La resort hotels: Shangri-La Tanjung Aru and Shangri-La Rasa Ria.

Getting to Sabah is easy. One can fly from Manila or Cebu by Malaysia Airlines and from Clark by Air Asia, which offers cheap air fares all year round.

The trip to Sabah, Malaysia, was made possible by the Sabah Tourism Board, Malaysia Airlines and Destinations Unlimited, a tour operator servicing outbound clients worldwide. Call 8964811 or 8964732.

E-mail the author at jnigos @inquirer com.ph.



TRAVEL BRIEFS

THE KOTA Kinabalu City Mosque has similar features to the Nabawi

DOT asks local gov'ts to work together for tourism

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano announced the Department of Tourism's support for local governments that would like to develop and promote their areas as tourist destinations. He made the announcement during the 18th Phillippine Travel Mart recently held at the Megatrade Hail, SM Megamall. The event showcased the top attractions, indigenous crafts and culture of the country's 16 regions. Dubbed as the Saleing Bayan for travelers, exhibit visitors received special gifts and discounts from participating air carriers and tour operators

Religious pilgrimage

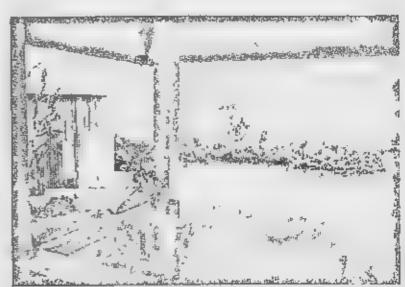
A pilonimage to some religious sites in Europe has been organized by author Visitacion "Chit" dela Torre, In Fatima, Portugal, the group will visit the Our Lady of Fatima

Basilica, tombs of Francisco and Jacinta, and watch a candlelight procession. In Spain, the trip shall include a visit to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, St. Theresa of Avila, a tour of Madrid and Valencia. From there, the group moves to Montserrat, Barcelona and Zaragoza, site of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar In Lourdes, France, it will visit the Grotto of St. Bernadette, From Lourdes, the group proceeds to Nice, Genoa, Pisa and Assisi, Italy. At Assisi, the group tours the Basilica of St. Francis, Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeil, and thorntess rose garden and Transito Chapel where St. Francis of Assist died. The journey ends in Rome, Italy where the participants will have an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square. Also to be visited are the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, San Glovanni in Laterano Church, Scala Santa Monument, St. Paul's outside the Walls Church and a tour

of Trevi Fountain. Fr Gerry Tapiador is the group's pilgrimage chaptain. Call 8154938 or 8156925, e-mail chitdelatorre @yahoo.

New airline destination

South East Asian Airlines (Sealr) has announced flights to Pagadian City, the provincial capital of Zamboanga del Sur, from Cebu every Monday and Thursday. The Cebu-Pagadian-Cebu route is in line with the Clark-based airline's expansion plans for this year. After opening a regional hub in Zamboanga City in 2002, Sealr now flies to Jolo and Tawi-Tawi on a daily basis and to Cotabato every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Present for the inaugural flight at the Pagadian Airport were President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Ace Durano. Call Seair Man.la at 8490100; Cebu at 032-3414879; and Pagadian at 062-2153831 or 35.



FIRST-CLASS AMENITIES

The Amorita Beach Resort on Panglao Island in Bohol offers first-class amenities and services. Guests can enjoy the infinity swimming pool, a juice bar and an all-day restaurant, in addition to the beach. A wellness son and a dive shop will open soon. Amorita's facilities are designed to meet every guest's needs. It has spacious function rooms, iuxurious rooms and private villas with plunge pools. Call 91 40585, email inquiries@amoritaresort.com or visit www.amoritaresort.com.





CARAIG-ANG GOBONSENG

Sherwin Pajulas Caraig, son of Pilar Lu Pajulas, wed recently Juvy Lyn Peralta Ang Gobonseng, daughter of Andres and Victoria Ang Gobonseng at Dumaguete Christian Church Reception was held at The Spanish Heritage—the premier events venue in Dumaguete City.

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquiren, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sanders.

Milestones

WONG-FILIPINO

David Wong, son of Wong Wang Pong and Sy Piak Gioc, will wed Jacqueline Filipino, daughter of Lim Giok Seng Filipino and Wong B. Muy on Sept. 23 at the United Evangelical Church of The Philippines. Reception will be held at Dragon Gate Seafood Restaurant





AMIN CELAJE

Maria Grandolla J. Amin, M D., daughter of Mr. Manuel S. Amin (deceased) and Mrs. Barbara J. Amin, is getting mairied to Joel C. Celaje, IV, M D., son of Mr. Joel M. Celaje and Mrs. Dulia C. Gelaje, on Sept. 8 at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City. The bride will be wearing a gown of her own design, with the help of stylist Kenneth Chua.



SANTOS-PANCHO

Ivan Dominic Santos will wed Arabella Pancho on Sept 30, 4 pm at the San Sebastian Church Reception will be held at One Esplanade.



GABOR-RAMOS

Julius Cuevas Gabor, son of lawyer Carmelito and Josefa Gabor (deceased), will wed Liezel Sarmiento Ramos, daughter of Divino (deceased) and Nemta Ramos on Sept. 22, 4,30 p.m. in a Christian ceremony at Lesue's Garden.

Storywriting contest

ANGEES WINK PRODUCTION IS nolding the "My (Funny) Love Affair" story writing contest

The competition is part of the "Weddings... Get Set... Go!!!" bridal fair, now on its fifth year, on Oct 13-14 at the Rockwell Tent.

Soon to-weds can write down inforgettable moments with their future husband/wife. The story has to be amusing and should have the "kilig" factor.

It should also be true.

Participants should have their wedding dates Oct. 13, 2007-Oct. 13, 2008 and must be able to prove it in case they win.

Entines should be e-mailed to myfunnyloveaffair@angelswink.biz. Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 10

Cash prizes and gift certificates from sponsors and event partners are at stake (5469477, text 0918-3122210, www.angelswink.biz).



54 Capitot Hill VIP

bird that

should

apologize?

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo BIRD PLAY					
1 Calling costs 6 City SE of	65 Rocet where a bird site and vocalizes?	100 "Pee- — Big Adventure" 101 in re 102 Fodder	13 Just-washed 14 State in NE India 15 Plum center	E2 Genetic material 54 Poison My's cousin	86 Part of YSL 87 It follows pl 86 — Lingus (carrier to
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23 Bird's cravings?	model 71 Extremely	116 Only thing that doesn't	32 Zadora and others	between fa	Andress 93 Substitutes
25 Eat a bit of 26 Mined	72 Flange of vision	fit in 117 Rake prongs	33 2005 Best Director —	and ti 62 Hog sound	(for) 94 Accepted,
rocks 27 Come in last	76 Bird from long ago?	118 Actor DeVito	34 Theology	63 Longest Swiss	as a challenge
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32 Comment efter your	poems 81 Realtor's	1 Chalupa kin 2 Shani of	yellow color	68 "Sands of — Jima"	99 Evade
something crude?	B2 Winning sign	"Ashanti" 3 Draw to 4 PC monitor	38 Make a speech 39 New —	70 "Ginger —" (Fleanor	103 Jewish lemple
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41 River to the	85 Choir song 87 Crazy bird?	6 Demean 7 Cleopatra's	40 University VIP	73 — culsine 74 Celestia. pa x	106 Anatomical
42 Made a bird?	91 Composer Mahler	8 Furthermore 9 Weeding	43 Nerdy type 44 Livy's	75 Vestige 77 J-N	sac 108 Hog hangout 110 Chaney of
44 Lord's wile 46 Stope	95 Lead-in to a bit of gossip 96 File	looi 10 They're	ianguage 45 Big flap 48 Film director	connection 76 Watch over	111 Ending of
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Super Instructions

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sharply

'The Fog'

PURELY PERSONAL Josephine Darang

Patroness of Vietnamese Christians

The devotion to Our Lady of La Vang, named after a fern that grows in central Vietnam, has spread with pilgrims from all over the world visiting her shrine in what is now Quang Tri City

LA VANG IS A FERN THAT GROWS DEEP in the forest in central Vietnam where the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared in 1798 to Vietnamese Christians when they were being persecuted.

Presenting herself as the Mother of God, she consoled and advised the people to use the leaves of the fern to treat ailments. She promised to help them.

The devotion to Our Lady of La Vang has spread. Pilgrims from all over the world visit her shrine in what is now Quang Tri-

The church was consecrated in 1928 in the presence of 20,000 pilgrims. It was elevated by Pope John XXIII to a basilica minore in 1962 but was destroyed in 1972 during the Vietnam war. After it was rebuilt, it became the Basilica of La Vang-

In 1988, Pope John Paul II canonized the 117 Vietnamese Martyrs in the basilica. The 200th anniversary of the apparation of Our Lady of La Vang was celebrated that same year.

To go to La Vang, call Marissa dela Paz, 7532551, Trends Travel Mart, or e-mail marissa@trendstravelmart.com

Kanta Misa

Nolky Silvestre said Aug. 22, feast of the Queenship of Mary, was special for Fr. Bernie O. Diaz, CM, because he debuted in the world of liturgical-religious music.

The official launch of his "Kanta Misa," a song book for choir and congregation/community, was highlighted by a solemn Mass officiated by Provincial Visitor Fr. Bjenvenido Disu, CM, and concelebrated with Fr. Renato Ruelos, parish priest of San Vicente de Paul Church, together with at least 15 Vincentian priests.

A short program hosted by Fr. Raymond Regua followed. Fr. Bernie's mentor, the Grand Old Man of Filipino Music, Maestro Alfredo Buenaventura, gave an engaging talk on his continuing musical journey showcasing his wonderful gift of humor.

Fr. Randy Agner, CM, delivered a very informative talk that underscored the role of liturgical music today. Emotionally overwhelmed, the unassuming Pr. Bernie was warm and welcoming in his response.

Fr. Bernie's versatility and unique sensitivity as a promising young songwriter shone through as the Sta. Isabel Choir, under the baton of Maribel Miguel, sang the melodious and uplifting "Tayo na sa Panginoon", the well-articulated "Paghahandog"; the lyrical and poetic "Buhay Ko'y Laan"; the dramanc and bulliantly arranged "Ama Namin"; the divine, soulfu. and stirring "Aba Ginoong Maria", and the gleeful, catchy, and festive "San Vicente, Sinugo ng Diyos."

Each composition was an inspiring and meaningful liturgical piece.

Copies of the songbook are now available at the St. Vincent de Paul religious

Prayer companion

"Straight from the Heart... A Prayer Companion" authored by Rev. Pr. Mario Jose C. Ladra of the Diocese of Malolos is a personal collection of prayers that, over the years, had been his source of comfort and solace during his moments of difficulties,

trials and crists. Fr. Mar invites everyone to say at least one prayer that generates a great loving faith to start a journey of blessing and heal-

The book will be launched today at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in Pleasant Hill Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan on the feast of its patron saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila.

Another launch will be held at 6 p.m., Sept. 28, at St. Paul's Bookstore in SM Megamail. Copies of the book are available at all St. Paul outlets nationwide at a very affordable price. The book will be a beautiful gift for Christmas and other special occasions.

CERTOCOMULTINE

It started as an online photo-sharing



OUR Lady of La Vang

group with Mark Anthony Cadawas, Francis Casas (who are both in North America), and Dr. Erwin Carabeo as administrators

Since they shared a common interest in Holy Week images, processions and other Lenten practices, they called the group "Mahal na Araw Lilok at Panata" Some three months later, the group has more than 300 members.

On Sept. 23, the Hermandad de la Sagrada Pasion will be formally launched as anorganization. Members of the board include Nolse Hans, Clifford Chua, Jorge Allan Tengco and Dennis Maturan. Dr. Carabeo is president

The event will coincide with the Encuentro III to be held in Casita de San Jose, Baliuag, Bulacan. High lights of the meeting include a Mass, veneration of relics of the cross and a mini exhibit of crosses and crucifixes. Those who like to join the hermandad can text 0927 6775195 The exhibit will feature a replica of the famous Holy Cross of Alitagtag and Bauan.

Monastic vocation

Don Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, said the monastic vocation semmar I wrote about in 1997 attracted many aspirants. One remained to become a monk and a

Another monastic vocation talk will be held 9 a.m., Oct. 6, at Pope Pius XII Catholic Center UN Ave., Paco, Manila Text 0917-5105585 or 0927-9362084 Fr Prior Savio SiccaLan and Dom Martin are speakers

Forum

June Keithley will speak during a Pro-Life Philippines forum 8 a.m.-12 noon, Sept. 29, at the Good Shepherd Convent, 1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City.

Seminar

A Marian encounter seminar will be held today at the Manresa Retreat Home, 926 Banawe St. cor. Sta. Rosa near Del Monte Inc., Quezon City. Call Sis. Luz, 7438729 or Sis. Cherry, 2310174

Trip

Msgr. Jerome Reyes of Binondo Church will lead pilgrims to the Holy Land, Egypt and Jordan Oct. 17-29. Call Adam's Travel at 5211651/5211698

September is thanksgiving month for me. I celebrated my birthday on Sept. 19 and my book "Purely Personal Book of Miracles" marked its first anniversary on Sept. 8. By God's grace, my book is a besiseller at National Book Store

San Lorenzo Ruiz

The Basilica Minore of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo will hold a procession at 4 p.m., Sept. 28, around the district. Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate in the Concelebrated Mass at 5:30 p.m.



FR. Bernie Diaz, CM, composer of "Kanta Misa"



Surround your senses with the latest in-flight entertainment, with SUPER's weekly lineup of personality raves and musings. Sit back and selax with thought-provoking features ranging from art and music, to man-on-the-street interviews and online journals.

Fly Super, every Saturday with the



Sunday LIFESTYLE

EMILY'S POST Emily Marcelo

Is it time to say goodbye?

GRAND Ballroom

of the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu

DEAR EMILY

I met Jon in 2001. We worked in the same compa-

It all started when he was asked by our superior to help me with my project. He was very kind and sweet.

ished, we still went out together. We really enjoyed each other's company.

The only problem was I was married and already had a daughter while he was engaged to be married.

His wedding was held as planned while I had a second baby.

But that did not stop us. Everyone in the office no-

ticed our growing closeness. They even tried assigning us to different sections. But still that did not stop us.

The more they tried to separate us, the more we wanted to be together.

It has already been six After the project was fin- years. But our love for each other has grown even stronger. We both left the company and decided to work abroad instead. We are now working here in South America, away from our respective families, enjoying each day we are together.

I do not know how long this will last. But I really hope it does I love him so much and him." I do not think I can ever live

without him.

Our project here will be finished in a few weeks. I will be transferred to another city, while he will be transferred to another country. Just the thought of our being separated again hurts so badly.

Is this love worth fighting for? Is there really hope for us? How can something that feels so good, be so wrong?

You asked how long "this" would last, and said you "really hope" it would. You followed it

up by saying you did not think

you "could ever live without

to end this affair?

If you end this affair and go back to your respective spouses, be sure that there will be no pining, no regrets, no looking

You must focus on the road ahead and rebuild the lives you both abandoned six years ago.

However, if going back to your families will only bring you and your boyfriend misery and unhappiness and ultimately strengthen further your love for each other-then, that is worse than leaving those innocent people in the first place.

There is no use going back to your families when there is re-What are you really trying to ally nothing to go back to. Give

say? Do you or do you not want both of your spouses a new lease on life-the freedom to find his/her own happiness; without you and your boyfriend hanging around.

and live the life you want together-forever and ever-and make a clean breast of every-

Do it if the two of you feel that way—truly and sincerely. Enough already of this guilttripping. Pace up to the truth-and., you know the

E-mail the author at emarce-It is unfair-it is unkind. Go lo@inquirer com ph, Subject. Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Visit www.pbs gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo cohost the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8 30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104 3 FM



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SUNDAY September 30, 2007 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Hotel Intercontinental Makati City

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Debutante's ball in Cebu

THE CEBU GRAND DEBUTANTE'S BALL, envisioned to be city's most dazzling social event, will be held on Oct. 20, at the Grand Ballroom of Marco Polo Piaza Cebu, the premier luxury destination in the Queen City of the South.

Organized in cooperation with the Fash-

ion Council of Cebu, the ball will introduce the most exquisite and beautiful debutantes in Cebu society, handpicked by dynamic designers Albert Arriba, Jun Escario, Arcy Gayatin, Or Hofer, Philip Rodriguez, Cary Santiago, Pelix Yu and Minnie Yuvienco.

Call (032) 2531111.



Making Children Love to Read - The Scholastic Way!

Children avoid books like a plague. Reading is such a pain for this new generation. They would rather play video games or watch cable TV the whole day. The alarming decline in literacy around the world has teachers and parents womed. But worry no more! Scholastic, the world's most trusted name in learning, offers a solution to beat out this apathy and get kids back to reading books!



A Classic and Pamiliar Case

Nine year old Jose absolutely hated reading --and the problem didn't end there. Rebellious and unruly, he disrupted classes and refused to do his homework. Asteng of failurs and coaches hadn't helped, it seemed that Jose's disilize of reading and school was intractable.

This is a typical story in today's classroom and homes. Teachers and parents find it difficult to encourage kids to read, thus they fat in school and become disciplinary problems.

But Why are children not motivated to read? Reasons are, tads may be reading books that (1) do not match their ability to read, and (2) do not match their interest.

At her wit's end, Jose's mother, Metanie, decided to try the Scholastic Reading Counts! Program (SRC), a reading program that matches each child with books appropriate for his reading level and interests. When Jose was assessed in March using the program, his reading level was 330 Lexite. Armed with this knowledge, Mielanie gave Jose books that matched his reading level and interests and scheduled daily twenty-minute reading sessions with him. After a month, lose was looking forward to the reading sessions and was eagerly asking his morn for new books. When he was assessed again in May, his reading level had risen to 480 Lexile, and in August, Jose achieved an on-grade reading level of 810 Lexile. (Lexile is a scientific way of measuring every individual's reading level through a computer-adaptive technology in the program.)

Yoday, Jose has become a confident and enthusiastic reader. His school behavior and social skills have also improved. In the past, he disrupted classes because he could not follow the lessons. But now, he participates in class discussions, does his homework independently, and submits it on time.

The moral of the story? Kids can love reading and learning, as long as they have books that they can read and want to read. But how do we match each child to books that he wants to read and is capable of reading?

One size fits all?

School children may wear identical uniforms, but their personalities, abilities, and interests are far from the same. And yet, almost all schools impose a standard book for each grade level, regardless of each child's actual reading ability and interests. As floselle Maskag, Program Manager of Scholastic Philippines says, "Traditionally, teachers do not have the tools to scientifically match the right books to each child. But now, through the Scholastic Reading Counts) program, they can have a way to match each child to the books that will help him become a better reader."

Knowing exactly what kids want

The Scholastic Reguling Counts I Program (SRC), an in-school geoding program, gives schools, parents, beachers, and children a scientific way to know what each child wants to read and is able to read. "First, we establish the children's reading levels. Second,

we give them a list of appropriate books that match their actual reading levels. Third we motivate children to read their books that are within their interests," says Henry Crua, General Manager at Scholastic Phippines. The process of matching kids to books is facilitated by the Lexie system, which classifies texts according to reading difficulty, and ranks students' reading levels depending on their ability to read and comprehend texts. It applies the same measure on the reader and the book, thus creating a scientific

The Scholestic Reading Counts! program celebrates what the child knows and does not condemn what the child does not know. "We match his ability with books that he can sticcessfully read, thus affirming him as a good reader." Mr. Chua explains.

Many parents believe that children should read only their school books, not recreational books (humor, 9ction, sports, etc. However, studies show that children who read recreational books for at least 20 minutes a day perform better in school than children who read only textbooks. Mr. Chua adds, "Kids should be exposed to a range of gennes, because that's where they develop their interests in life. Reading is important in life, not just for academic success."

To help tady progress to higher reading levels, Scholastic Reading Countst (SRC) supplements the books/quizzes with Scholastic Reading Skills Kills, which help build children's mastery of reading comprehension strategies. The kills allow students to self-monitor and independently practice reading according to their level. By letting readers go at their own pace and chart their own progress, it helps children grow more and more consident as they expenence reading success.

Partnership with families and schools

Although Scholastic Reading Counts I Is an in-school program, it equally eraphastaes the importance of involving parents in building their children's reading skills. "Most parents want to help their children, but may not have the tools or knowledge on how to do vt. Scholastic Reading Counts) has a family literacy component where we advise parents on what books are appropriate for each age group. We also suggest activities to help make their homes literacy-rich, " says Ms. Maskag. "Scholastic Asading Counts' encourages parents to be involved because leadners are going to provide them reports to update them on the progress of their children." And of course, teachers are a wital part of the program, "The program equips teachers with strategies and tools to help make teaching easier, more furt, and more effective," she explains. "We are with the teachers throughout the school year, providing training and monthly conferences to work dosely with our school partners.

Reading is everybody's business

Making reading everybody's business: that's Scholastic's mission. "The company plans to reach as many parents through the schools, communities and mals, and hopefully through media as well, so that parents are more aware that their luds start early in reading.", Mrs. Belen said. The company provides classroom materials and books of varied levels and genres to partner schools. "We want to partner with schools and make reading something creative, imaginative and exciting." she adds t

How effective are your efforts to increase your child's reading 🚟 😁 🕝 achievement? Let's help each other. Contact us 📑 🔭 😅 Tel. Nos. 751-6713 / 817-4771 Email: hnchua**c**scholastic.com.ph/educ**c**scholastic.com.ph/

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Scholastic Reading Counts! Proven. Fun. Exciting.

world of best buys at the one-stop home store

Home furnishings galore are up for grabs at SM Homeworld's storewide sale starting today until September 30. Savvy shoppers are invited to take advantage of the big savings and exciting deals lined up for the Home Sale.

SHVERSTONE DO-pc non-stick cookware (b) & po

Less 10%

P5,599,75

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EL 1915

FFGO 24aze French Skiller for many P2,500 purchase of Mayor products

ency straint-base

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HOSSY MEDIS

ginsswore

THE PROPERTY OF

glosswara.

A wide variety of items, including plasticware, glassware, kitchenware, linen, décor and furniture are pegged

at up to

50% off,

while

others are

offered at



o many more in store!

In addition to the September sale items, SM Homeworld showcases so many other choices that you can take home at amazingly affordable regular prices.

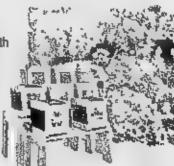


Go contemporary with the latest fabric and leather sofa collections. Accent tables, étagères and consoles in gleaming glass and chrome



DECOR time for a new look

Style match your home decorating with good-looking choices that include wais and photo frames, and assorted



GLASSWARE tableware for all occasions

Setting the table for everyday dining? Dr weekend entertaining? SM Homeworld's dinnerware and giassware collections are designed to help you achieve a wellappointed table setting. Any time, any day of the week!



UNEN inspired buys for bath sanctuaries

Stock up on greetlooking bath essentials. SM Homeworld's Linen Section showcases an impressive collection of tawels in white, pastels, printed and solids Complete your motif with matching shower curtains,



KITCHENWARE efficient cookery essentials for the home chef





SPIDERMAN storage bours with costers

Befre P449,75

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We've got it all for you! | DELARIMENTISTORE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0810 Series of 2007

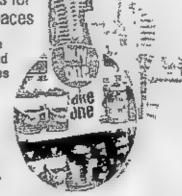
SAVE 2149,75

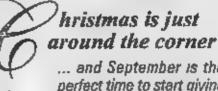
HOW P509.00

SAVE P249,75

Believe P749,75

selections et faqdkeepers, storage boxes and organizers.





... and September is the perfect time to start giving your home that festive seasonal update.

Get a headstart on your holiday decorating. Visit SM Homeworld for the latest trends and hottest buys

And, with the store's September sale event just beginning, go ahead and stock up on everyday essentials, particularly those tagged at low, low price breaks.



kitchenware

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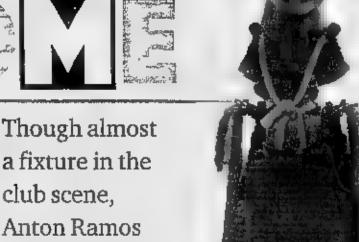
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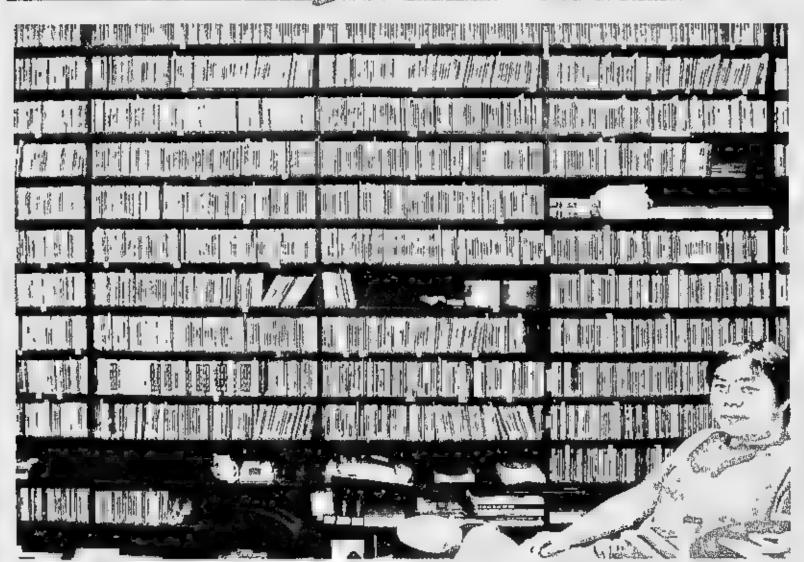
CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARINAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA • BACOLOD

e iumiture (





A JAPANESE warrior's full regalia has pride of place.



THOUGH music is his passion, Ramos appreciates the occasional silence and does not even listen to anything while driving.

DJ's Zen retreat

Text by Linda B. Bolido Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BUYING HIS FIRST music album when he was 12 years old, Anton Ramos was hooked. Disco was the rage and so his collection was filled with the dance music of the era.

By the time he was in high school, he was doing the party scene not as a reveier but as the crowd could dance to.

Early on, he says, his father told him to "find your passion." Some 20 years and about 5,000 titles later-give or take a few CDs-the passion has not cooled but burns as hot and bright as ever.

once again as he does gigs as a disc jockey for one of the hottest clubs in town at least one day a week. Friends also occasionally invite him to do his music-mixing magic out of town.

Not surprisingly, he is in charge of the family's musicstore chain.

This all-encompassing love for music even dictates Ramos' itinerary when he travels. The exotic destinations far from the madding crowd are not for the 30-something Ramos. He would rather go to more cosmopolitan destinations because he likes "to shop."

But you will not find him checking out the latest fashion for men. Rather he haunts music stores searching for his kind of music. These days that means electronica, for this former radio DJ turned club DJ.

Stock trader

But if you think Ramos' life is one big party, a night of barhopping fusing into another evening of merrymaking, his day job should tell you otherwise. Away from the club scene, he has one of what many people

consider as a very staid occupa-

Ramos is a licensed stockbroker, lugging his reliable laptop everywhere he goes so he can keep track of the action at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

His three-bedroom flat reflects his need for silence after nights of "storm." Ramos says, "Quiet moments are very important" so with the help of stylist Rachy Cuna, a family guy playing the music the friend, he has created a Zen sanctuary for lumself---quiet, neat, contemporary, uncluttered and very low-key-not at all the kind you would expect from someone who is a regular in the party circuit.

But Ramos says he is actually a homebody when not donning He has come full circle, col- his DJ hat. Disc jockeying is all lecting and playing dance music about music, not the party scene. "Music defines what I do," and doing the club scene is simply an opportunity to play his kind of music and share his favorite sounds with other peo-

> The living cum dining room, with its subdued, solid hues and modern artwork, is where he kicks off his shoes to enjoy moments of peace.

A leather set by Japanese designer Umizawa defines the living section of the room. The rectangular wooden table in a light tint is by Filipino craftsmen just like a buffer table beside the six-seater table in the dming area. It stands on a heavy jute rug with its edges traced in black fabric.

A Cuna jar and large scented candles sit on top of the rectangular table. Large oriental jars stand close to the wall.

Set against the picture window with its view of the Makati skyline is a heavy wooden bench that serves as a bookcase. A complete set of heavy, antique Japanese warrior's battle gear, from helmet to armor, stand to one side balanced on the other

club scene, **Anton Ramos** retreats to his sanctuary when not playing music to partyphiles



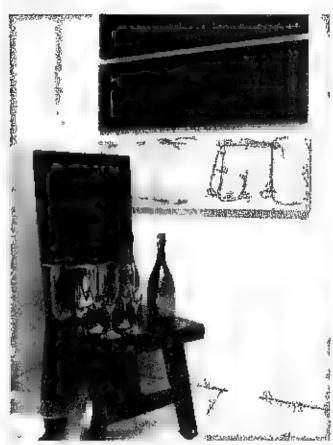


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RAMOS says his books reflect his interests, like home and graphic

design.



WORKS by an unknown artist adors a kitchen wall.



A JAPANESE warrior's outfit from headgear to armor is a guaranteed conversation piece among dinner guests,



DJ's Zen retreat

From page #1

side by a samural.

The books arrayed on the bench, he says, reflect his interests-graphic arts, home and architecture, records, and rubber shoes. The design books are to help him conceptualize the covers for his own albums-nine of them so far for a series called the "Chill-out Project."

Hoarder

Though he says "I can't stand clutter," Ramos readily admits being a "hoarder" I ke his father. So several pairs from his extensive collection of running shoes, though not as large as his hoard of discs and vinyl albums, are carefully hidden behind a dou ble-door closet. The others are in his parents' house.

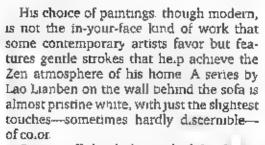
He is also starting a collection of watches. So far, he has a Rolex inherited from his grandfather, Panerai, Audemar Piguet and Bulgari, among others.



A BOOK on sneakers is a giveaway of Ramos' other major collection, rubber shoes.



A HEAVY wooden table holds a Zen-inspired Cuna jar and large candles.



Setting off the dark wood of the d.n.ng table are two large Zen paintings by Cuna in red, black and white Arrayed against the wall of the corridor leading to the bedrooms are works by Ivan Acuña while a Gus Albor piece leads the way to Ramos' bed

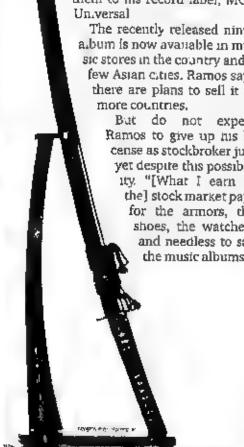
Even the attenen is adorned by a set of paintings by an unknown artist while a stylized photograph by Jaime Zobel de Ayala is positioned right next to the door.

Despite the calm air of the living/dining room, music remains integral to Ramos' home. One of the bedrooms not only

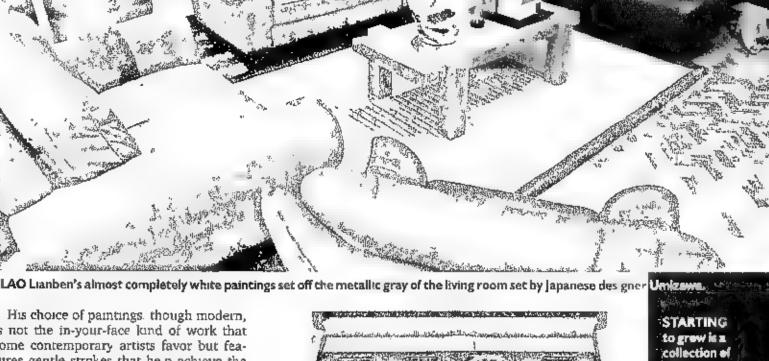
> holds his collection of CDs and vinyl (every month brings new titles), but is also a mini recording studio where he mixes his "Chill-out" discs, editing them in his laptop before sending them to his record label, MCA Un.versal

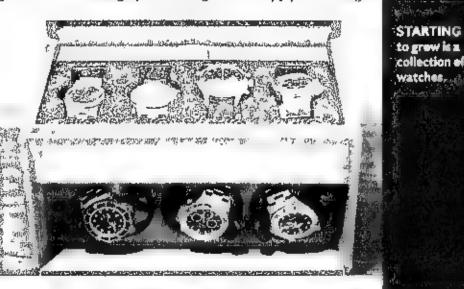
The recently released ninth album is now available in mu sic stores in the country and a few Asian cities. Ramos says there are plans to sell it in

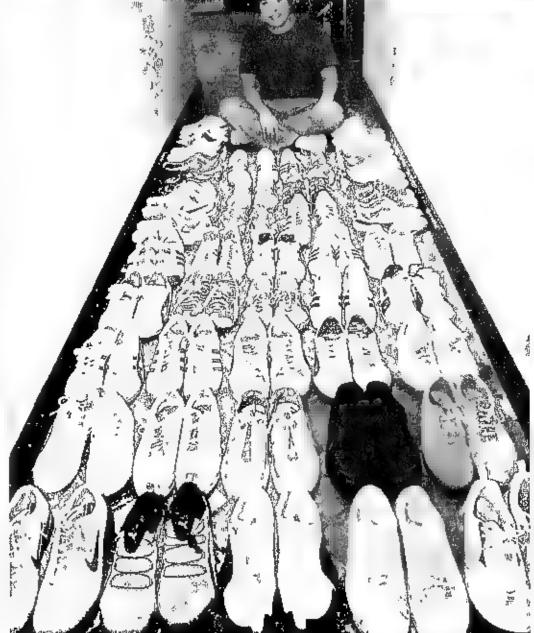
But do not expect Ramos to give up his license as stockbroker just yet despite this possibility. "[What I earn in the] stock market pays for the armors, the shoes, the watches" and needless to say the music albums.



A JAPANESE samural







THOUGH not as large as his CD "treasure," Ramos' shoe collection is almost as impressive



RAMOS mixes his CDs with his own recording equipment and edits them in a laptop.

Sunday LIFESTYLE at 10 ME

me pieces

By Sheila B. Romero Contributor

WAS RECENTLY IN San Francisco for our L annual family vacation. Whenever I'm there, aside from shopping at the Union Square area, I love going around the quaint streets of downtown Hayes Valley to discover new boutiques and stores that might have come up during the year, and to rediscover old haunts as

well. One store that never ceases to amaze me is Propeller, a furuture store that supports local artists. Its upand-coming designer is named Derek Chen, I had heard of him from designer interior friends in the Bay Area, so I just had to go and see for myself

The products that I saw confirmed that his designs were indeed modern and unique, and convinced me that Mania should be the first in Asia to learn about Derek Chen

AEGEAN vase

I wanted to interview three emerging San Francisco artists---a furn.ture/home accessories maker, a painter and a potrer-but it was not easy to set up these meetings because of our schedules. Fortunately, I was able to talk to Chen

I was happy to have along with me my daughter Milka, who looked like a professional

photographer the day we toured Chen's factory.

Sleek yet natural

Born in China and raised in Michigan, Chen is an Electrical Engineering graduate who worked as a management consultant for more than a decade. He then jumped onto the dotcom bandwagon, and as with most dot com businesses in 2001, that phase of his life quickly ended.

Left with a lot of time in his hands, Chen immersed himself in his hobby of deand creating signing things.

Today, almost five years after he put up his studio, Urbana, his pieces may be

found in homes in different cities in the US and other parts of the world. Lifestyle mag-

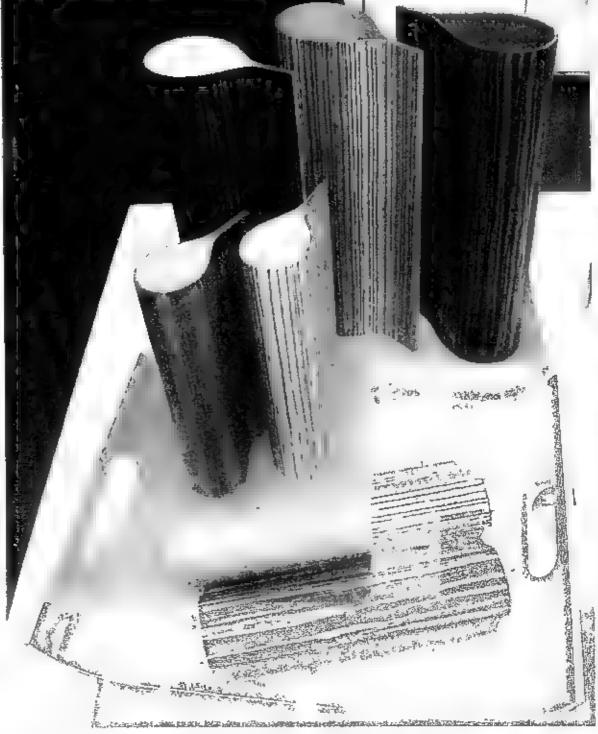
azines like Wallpaper, Breathe and In Style in the US have reviewed his famous Bent plywood trays and waterproof Teardrop

resin vases. Both pieces are a product of a marriage of materials-specifically, wood and resm. The result is a very sleek yet natural look.

Chen showed me the carcasses of the new furniture line that he was preparing for an upcoming New York launch.

His furniture's lightness in appearance defies their actual strength and durability, a testament to his engineering background.

We compared notes on the pains of furniture production and the reality of striking a compromise between your dream



HAND-MADE, stunning and costly Derek Chen vases and trays

design and the imperatives of busmess.

"A person has to make his living too, right?" he said. He agreed that the difficult part was trying to make the product click in your market

American voice

The early stages in the design field are always daunting and not for the faint of heart.

Chen observed that the Eu ropeans have been very aggressive and productive in the field of modern design. Italian and French brand names are easily mentioned when modern fur niture and design are discussed.

Council, an association which Chen founded, aims to bring an American voice to the design field, reminiscent of Henry Miller, Knoll and Vitra.

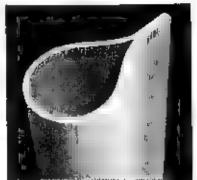
As the name implies, "there is collaboration at play," said Chen. "I have developed many relatronships with different designers at Urbana designs that gave



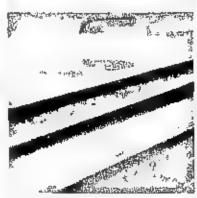
DEREK Chen

rise to Council. My goal is to produce furniture at a commercial level to be able to compete with the international market."

Along with fellow designers from San Francisco and two other distinct designers from



TEARDROP vase



BENTWOOD trays

Europe, he put together an inaugural cohection which was recently viewed at two international furn ture fairs.

In April the collection debuted in Muan, Italy, at the famous Salone del Mobile 2007 It was also shown at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York City.

Council arms to create curated lines of distinctive pieces that fit together for each room of the house

Long process

I was awed by the long process it took to hand-make Chen's products.

"That's why my items can be very costly. You can produce just a small quantity for a period of time," said Chen.

The Teardrop vase is fully waterproof and is made of veneered plywood in zebrano, macassar ebony, douglas fir or walnut. Bent in the shape of a teardrop, it is sealed, weighted with opaque colored resin and finished with a satin lacquer he vase is available in three sizes and six wood veneers.

On the other hand, the Bentwood tray is made of highgloss clear resin over graphic print or woven fabric. It is available in nine colors.

Both the Teardrop vase and the Bentwood tray are now available in different colors at Beyond Bamboo, a lifestyle store located at the Doña Consolación Building 122 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makari City.

The author is co-owner of Beyond Bamboo (tels. 8908191 and 8907680) Visit www.beyondbamboo.com. Email bbeyor.dbamboo@yahoo com



PSID pays tribute to Filipino furniture makers in "F3"

THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF Interior Design (PSID) Advanced Class of 2007 will mount ts graduation exhibit titled "Forty, Filipino, and Fabulous" ("F3") on Sept. 29-Oct. 31, at the Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeno Street, Salcedo Vil lage, Makatı City.

Mounted in cooperation with dustries of the Philippines (CFIP), "F3" also celebrates PSID's 40th anniversary with an exhibit showcasing Philippine furniture integrated into masterfully designed and executed interior spaces.

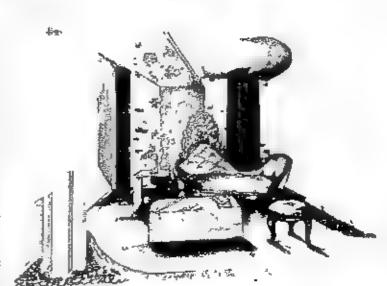
for cooperation between CFIP lot of PSID's faculty and alumni, and we've always been im-

pressed with their talent and professionalism," says Joy Cancio, CFIP vice president for Chamber Development. "With this exhibit, we look forward to the students' designs as they promote Filipino furniture. We hope this will inspire students to explore furniture design as well."

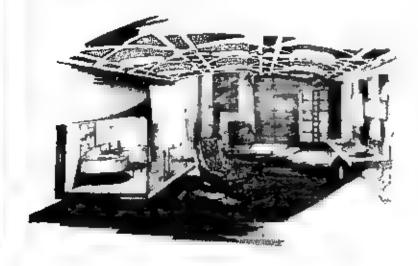
"We are celebrating the union the Chamber of Furniture In- of CFIP and PSID with a breakthrough interior design exhibit. All 19 booths are carefully planned, researched and executed to promote the ingenuity and creativity of Filipino-designed furniture pieces in fabulous interior settings, and to "We welcome this opportunity emphasize the importance of formiture as an indispensable eland PSID. We've worked with a ement in creating interiors that work," explains PSID professor Jie Pambid.

PSID is the country's premiere institution in interior design education, established in 1967 by Engr. Augustine Cancio and Herminia Cancio-Layug, with the curriculum conceptualized by interior designer Edith Oliveros, Arch. Lor Calma and National Artist Napoleon Abueva. Since then, PSID has produced a number of successful practitioners and has been consistent in topping the local board examinations for interior design.

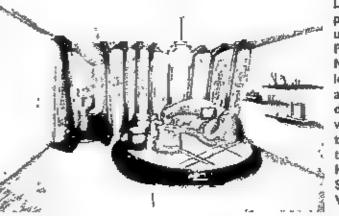
PSID offers Basic and Advanced interior design courses to around 350-420 students, with a pool of 25-32 professors. The Advanced Course is marked by a major exhibit that serves as the thesis of the graduating batch



SAMPAGUITA. Elegance, grace and sophistication best describe this classy den. Attention is centered on the heavily carved daybed serving as the area's focal point. Edectic meets modern baroque, Designed by Karen Eleazar and Christine Monteverde.



SALAPID. A modern Filipíno couple's sanctuary, featuring a modern interpretation of the stalihiya and its deliberate juxtaposition with contemporary elements. Designed by Jean Gil, Kaye Llanto, Jose Soriano and Maybs Uy.



LILOK. An indoor paradise with a uniquely Fisipino look. Featuring featured Maranaw-inspired louvers, frosted glass, and a specially designed abaça mesh warped sofa with tribal-inspired coffee table. Designed by Karen Baltazar, Tin Sta. Ana and Glesin Vitor.

National bonsai exhibit Oct. 12-21

THE 4TH NATIONAL Bonsal Open Exhibition will hold a series of funfilled activities Oct. 12-21 at the Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

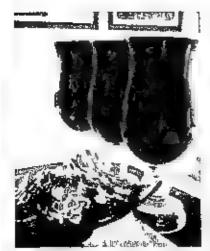
The event will include piant and garden bazaar, at the Araneta Cohseum Parking Area. Bonsai lectures and demonstrations by for eign masters and local arnsts, kiddie bonsai workshop and other basic and advanced workshops will be held at the Activity Area of Gateway Mal.

Bonsai, originally deveroped by the Chinese in 200 AD for medicinal purposes, refers to the miniaturization of trees.

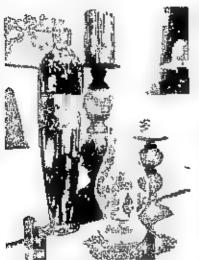
The agreement for the National Bonsai Open was signed by PBSI's Bobby Gopiao, president; Mike Morden, vice-president; and Dr. Emer Cruz, director Signing for the Araneta Center Inc. were Rene dela Cruz, chief operating officer, and Ed Tejerero, senior vice president for leasing.

Sunday LIFESTYLE at 19 ME

Top creative minds want to get inside your house



BLACK urn-shaped crystal vases arranged in a row



Mali Nours

Sept. 25 - 29 - 30

OUR HOME, THE LIFESTYLE store that offers great prices, has selected lines designed by some of the country's top interior and fashion designers.

Tito Villanueva, Adel Amasco, and Dan Lichauco designed furniture and décor pieces for modern spaces, while fashion designer Rajo Laurel adds his creative touch to his bed linen

Villanueva showcases his Trent Co.lection for Our Home. He designed "a sectional sofa with relaxed slanted back cushions and an extended chaise lounge that you can convert into different looks by breaking up the pieces of the sofa making every angle an attractive one."

He said "a well-upholstered sofa makes a strong visual state-ment. It is the easiest form of good interior design."

Although her background is in garment and trading, has ventured into Exotic Interior Blooms for Our Home—sampaguita, potted orchids and succu-She said there was no need to

change all the furniture in a room for a fresh, new look. A change in color and accessories from dressing up some of Manican achieve the same effect.

la's most elegant women. Laurel's designer linens

DECORATIVE plates and bowl

Institute of Technology in New

York and the Central St. Mar-

un's School in London, and

made from recycled glass

of travel and graphic lines. These are Autobon, The Strip, Emerald, Catwalk, Mirage, and La Cront, all in 4-6-piece sets using 300 thread count and 100 percent cotton fabric.

for your home

Lichauco's has two furniture collections for Our Home, Frank and Ponteyn. The Frank collection consists of minimalist sofas with a deep brown wood base and fabric padded cushions in neutral beige, rich gold, and refreshing green. These are three-seater and two-seater sofas with center and side tables.

The Fonteyn Collection is dynamic and versatile, movable furniture with multifunctional designs-a dining table that can be converted into a center

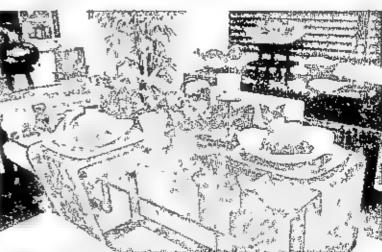
Our Home stores are at SM Megamall, Fairview, Southmail, V-Mail, the Block at North-ED-

style," says Rajo Laurel.

Rosa, Baguio, Pampanga, Clark, Lucena, Mariao, Dasmarinas, Batangas, Ilodo, and Cagayan SA, Mall of Asia, Bacoor, Sta

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"THE bedroom should be a place for relaxation and should reflect your personal taste and





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Editor Emenie G. Velande

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Love and violence, according to Javier Bardem InHollywood /H1
■ Disgruntled show biz newbies rush back home Rushes /G6

Hopeless romantic

By Pocholo Concepcion

PIOLO PASCUAL IS A HOPELESS ROMANTIC
—in his own words, "a sucker for love stories."

The brown-eyed mestizo, the biggest male talent in the ABS-CBN stable, is discussing why he thinks he has also achieved success as a pop balladeer.

"I can't stay away from ballads," Pioto says.
"Du'n ako nakilala."

A gaggle of ententainment writers surround him as he starts explaining the making of his latest album, "Timeless" (Star Records). For the first time, Piolotries his hand at writing lyrics and assumes greater responsibility as album co-producer.

Work on "Timeless" took two months, with many hours consumed on recording his vocals. Piolo talks with pride about two songs he wrote, "There for Me" and "Why Can't We Be Together"—the former dedicated to Winnie Mariano, a hardworking TV crew

OPELESS/





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'Donsol' is 2008 Oscar bet

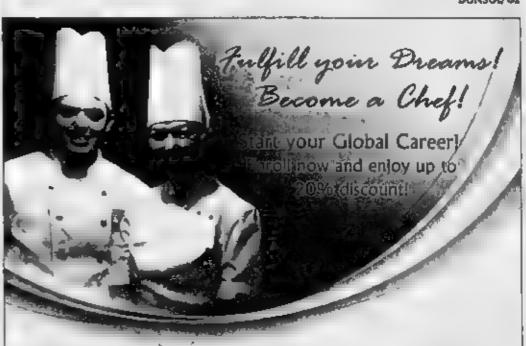
By Marinel R. Cruz

THE FILM ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPpines (FAP) has chosen the independent film "Donsol," by Adolf Alix, as Philippine entry in the Best Foreign Language

Film category of the 80th Academy Awards set in January next year.

A six-member selection committee chose the Bicycle Pictures' movie over Brillante Mendoza's "Foster Child" and Pablo Biglang-Awa and Veronica Velasco's "Inang Yaya"—accord-

DONSOL/67



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ENTERTOUNMENT

'Donsol' is 2008 Oscar bet From page GI

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ing to director Pablo Gomez of the selec-

tion committee. "We are hoping that a story on whale sharks would impress American viewers,

Gomez told biquirer Entertainment. "I never thought it

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would go this far," said "Donsol" director Adolfo Alix, 27, who is now working on feature films—"Tambolista" and "Batanes."

"Donsol." which stars Sid Lucero, is a finalist of the 2006 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. It won the Best Cinematography Award and the Best Actress Award for Angel Acquino.

MOST FILMMAKERS DREAM OF producing, writing and directing a hit film, a movie that gets critical raves and sets a new record at the box office. Alas, only a precious few achieve that vaunted dream, and many more end up with smelly flops on their hands, and empty movie houses for their pains.

Why can't hit movies be produced with greater certainty? What makes a hit movie?

A mouthful

WE once posed this naive question to veteran Lea Productions head Aling Toreng Santos. With great patience and tolerance, she sighed, "Ay naku, iho, if I knew the secret, I'd be a billionaire by now!"

Well, we deserved that land but curt reply. (Infazed, however, we asked other movie people for tips-and got a mouthful:

Since film is a mass medium, the biggest hits are made by productions that appeal to the greatest sector of the movie audience.

In the Philippines, demographics inform us that the country's population is primarily young. So, movies for kid, teen and family viewers have a better chance to make it big at the tills.

Major factor

EMPATHY is another major factor. Not only should you aim your movie at the biggest viewing sector, you also have to make sure there's something in your story and its principal character viewers can empathize with.

That sounds easy, but it isn't. To gen-

VIEWFINDER ing? You got it.

erate great empathy, you've got to fully understand what makes your target audience tick-what it wants, what it needs, what it dreams of, what its elemental priorities are.

So you want to make a hit movie?

Difficult objective

Nestor

U. Torre

AS ANY psychologist will tell you, that's a difficult objective to achieve And, ironically, that dodgy journey starts with knowing yourself first because you're the one generating the material that others are supposed to find meaningful, inspiring, entertain ing and deeply empathetic.

Well, no wonder few hit films are being made. With heavy requirements like those, only a few can pass muster

Then, there's the question of film type: Will your story turn out to be a drama, comedy, fantasy, action, sci-fi, horror-or, as quite often happens locally, Pinoy halo-halo?

Sounds logical

THAT'S because some local producers want to play it safe and give everybody something in their movie to like. That sounds logical, but experience tells us that it can make your movie a big, unfocused mess, so watch it. You can be too "logical" for your own good.

it's really better to make your film's type clear, so that viewers will know? what they're in for Truth in advertis-

Speaking of advertising, you have to face the expensive fact that most but movies are products of saturation promotions, which include hagely pricey-IV spots. So, after finding money tomake your film, you have to get your hands on even more money to pro-

Star value

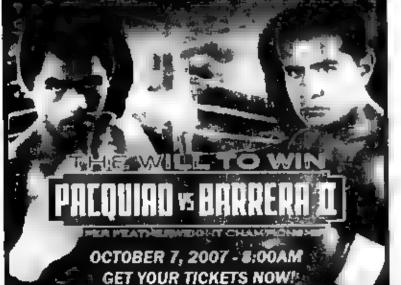
FINALIX, you also have to face the fact that most local hits bank on strong "star value," which is similarly expensive. That is, if you can even succeed in securing the services of bankable stars, whose work schedules are all filled up .

Fortunately, there are the wonderful exceptions. For instance, "Tanging Yaman" had modest star value, but it made a mint. Attribute that to its heartfelt and inspiring story about a fractured family.

Battle-tested

WHAT about "Tanging Ina"? The Ai-Ai delas Alas starrer also broke the bank, without costing an arm and a leg. Instructively, however, its star-director tandem tried to repeat its phenomenal showing with a follow-up project-that didn't set the box office on

So, that takes us back to where we started-with dear Aling Toreng Santos and her pithy words of battle-tested wisdom: "If I knew the answer, I'd be a billionaire by now!"



NG CINEPLEX

Hopeless

member; the latter about someone whose identity Piolo would rather keep secret.

The writers tease him for clues, but he won't budge. A veteran columnist makes a wild guess: Does her name start with the letter J?

"Hindi po," Piolo replies. "How about the letter R?"

Piolo doesn't say a word. The teasing escalates, and the press con-

chides it's probably Rica Peralejo. Ar 30, Prolo insists he's unattached. He has a year-old kid, Iñigo, from a past relationship, but looks forward to getting married five years from now. His idea of romantic moments is nothing grand. Just being able to walk in the

enough, he says. Here's a guy, drop-dead gorgeous and mildmannered, who can't find a mate because work gets in the way.

mall and hold hands with his beloved is

So for now, Piolo contends himself with expressing all his notions about romance through ballads, loads of it, in his new CD.

What did you do, exactly, as co-producer of

your album?

This is the first time in my five years with Star Records that I had a free hand in choosing the songs and who to work with, like Jonathan Manalo who is my co-producer. He produced two songs ("Wajang Kapalit" and "Ikaw Lamang") that I had previously recorded. I msisted on working with him again, and also for these two songs to be included in the album. I wrote lyrics for two new songs with Jonathan providing the melody. In the studio I was really kulit, a perfectionist. In my past albums, the average recording time was two hours per song. For this one, there were tracks that I had to go back for three or four times, to do some curing. It took me an average of five hours per song. And I would even come back the next day to listen to it over and over If I heard something no hadi ako comfortable, I'd record it again. I invested that much time in the album 'cause I wanted something na hardi mo na usipin na may kulang pa.

The album is all ballads.

Ballads are timeless. My vocal range is for love songs and my genre is pop-rock, I cannot

How does one ballad stand out from the

It has to be full of emotions, crisp lyrics, you know, something so emotional that, when you sing it, people would know it's not just a song—but there's a stray in IL

Here's a dropdead gorgeous guy who can't find a mate, as work gets in

the way

What's your all-time favorite ballad?

It has to be "Kailangan Kita" because it's really emotional. You have to feel and know the song very well to be able to sing it. There's another one, "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan" by Jun Polistico, which was my first exposure to good ballads.

Do you listen to other types of music to suit your different moods?

I listen to everything. I listen to classical music like Beethoven when I'm trying to motivate myself, to get into the mood when I'm acting. Also Josh Groban, Boceili. Once in a while, when I want to relax at night, I play meditative music, New Age and Zen-type.

Who's your top musical idol?

I've always been a fan of U2 because its music withstands time. My favorite rock ballad is "All I Want Is You." It's really a classic band and Bono has great vocal range. He has transcended pop icon status; he's now a social icon, because he's using his influence for global con-

Do you see yourself writing along the lines of a U2 song?

If I had more freedom and more talent, of course I would! If I could only have Bono's brilliance and the way he sings and writes, I'd glad-

ly do that. The fact that I've started writingsongs for my album is already opening doorsfor me. It's something new and I've gladly takenup the challenge.

Which is more powerful as a medium, film: or music?

I think they complement each other But filmhas a stronger influence. A song has to be supported by visuals for it to come to life. A song: you hear becomes different when it's played on*

Which movies do you find powerful?

"Dekada '70," It had a powerful socio-pobical content. It changed my whose life as an actor, I gained confidence when I started winning awards. It made me feel I was really part of the business, that I could really be a serious actor. Among foreign movies, I like 'Transformers." I've always been a fan of Steven Spielberg. My all-time favorite pop movie is "Reality Bites," being a fan of Winona Ryder I love musicals like "Phantom of the Opera." Story-wise, I love-"Titanic." I'm a sucker for love stones.



New twists, more musicians needed

HOW LUCKY CAN PIOLO PASCUAL GET? pleasant and in tune. There is honesty in dama'y di tumatagal

Star Records, is said to have instant- soars with vibrato at the climax of some ly turned platinum because two corporate sponsors had plunked in money for advance orders (with corre-REVIEW sponding tie-up deals, of course). Piolo himself is surprised that his mall tours have ' registered increased sales,

350 a day. But more than financial returns, what is there to like about "Timeless"?

Unlike other singer-wannabes, Piolo's vocals, though a bit thin, actually sounds along magmahal/ Bakit ang nararam-

"Timeless," his fifth album for the way he expresses feelings; he even

But the songs' sentiments can be a bore. In most cuts, what one hears are never-ending pledges of love and devotion-not bad, since this is what romantic tunes are about. There are, however, other ways of writing love bal-

from the usual 100, to the current lads. There's one here, "Turuan Mo Ako" (written by Richard Poon), that deviates from the rest. It's not outstanding, but at least it has a twist: "Turuan mo

Piolo's attempts at writing lyncs, though still amateurish, shows a lot of promise. "There for Me" has vivid images, such as comparisons with soldiers and angels depicting the subject's devotion and attitude.

What's new about this album is Piolo's increased creative control, even if the collection still includes a few covers, tike True Faith's "Dahil Ikaw" and Rey Valera's Walang Kapant "

He should demand more musicians next time, because the arrangements here are too generic for "Timeless" to make a lasting difference. Pocholo Concepcion

From Toronto By Bayani San Diego In PHOTOS COURTESY OF IZA CALZADO ON THE DAY SHE MAS DEING

ON THE DAY SHE WAS BEING fitted with a "face cast" by prosthetic makeup expert Paul Jones on the set of Yam Laranas' "The Echo" in Toronto, [2a Calzado was grinning from ear

"He asked why I was always smiling," recails Calzado, now back in Manila, "I told him it was because I couldn't believe I was in Canada, shooting a Hollywood movie '

To think, she plays an abused wife in the US remake of "Sigaw." "I was bugbog [battered), emotionally and physically throughout the month-long shoot."

That was why she had made "cheerfulness" her goal (and coping mechanism): "I simply enjoyed myself."

Kiddie crush

But who wouldn't have a blast, having US hunk Jesse Bradford as co-star?

"He was my crush when he was a kid in 'King of the Hill.'

But I didn't want to look star-struck, so I played it coo. "

Although she had stopped herself from asking for an autograph, she cinched a snapshot with Bradford "He took MAKEUP expert Paul Jones, our photo [with shown here fitting Iza's face h.s free arm]. cast, noticed that the Pinay was "always smiling." He said he was good in taking pictures that

way." Bradford is a total pro, she recounts. "One time, the stand-in could've covered for him, but still he turned up and did the scene with me. I love the feeling when the actor is in the same place, emotionally, with me. I wish we had more scenes to-



SCREEN husband Kevin Durand, says tza, is "a very intense and intelligent actor."

Calzado also has fond memories of screen husband Kevin Durand, Russell Crowe's current co-star in the hit Western *3·10 to Yuma." "He's a very mtelligent actor. He asked questions and would discuss scenes with

Calzado lates

She says that she also hit it off with co-star Amelia Warner of "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising" fame, "She said she had watched 'Sigaw' and that

she liked it. " On the set, they gabbed about Philippine beaches, but the "funny thing was, in our scene together, we

didn't get to talk much." Just as amuable was Carlos Leon (yup, dad of Madonna's firstborn Lourdes), who was her "lunch buddy" on her first few days in Canada. "When he first saw me, he thought I was also Latino. He encouraged me to



Liberating, she explains, because she experienced "the freedom of walking in the streets in relative anonymity ... and fulfilling because it was a dream come true."

Back in Manila, she is packing her bags once again, to shoot Adolf Alix and Dave Hukom's "Batanes." She is enthusiastic, to say the least. "I saw the trailer of [Alix's previous film] 'Kadin' and found Batanes inspiring."

New screen guy

PHOTO by Jesse Bradford. The

with his left hand, recalls Iza.

try out for Hispanic roles."

H'wood actor took this snapshot

They ended up chatting

about everything from fruits

(watermelon, grapes) to pet

causes. "He commended me af-

ter learning that I host a public

service show ("At Your Service

In sum, she tags her Toronto

Star Power" on OTV)."

Cameras start grinding first week of October. Here, she costars with Tarwan's Ken Zhu, star of "Meteor Garden" and formerly of the boy band F4

As in "The Echo," she did research on her co-star, prior to

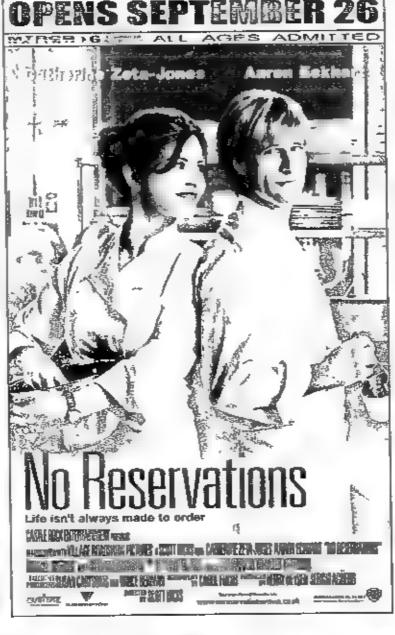
T checked out Ken's website and found out that he does a lot of charity work for children ... and that he cooks," she exclaims. "I love him already!"

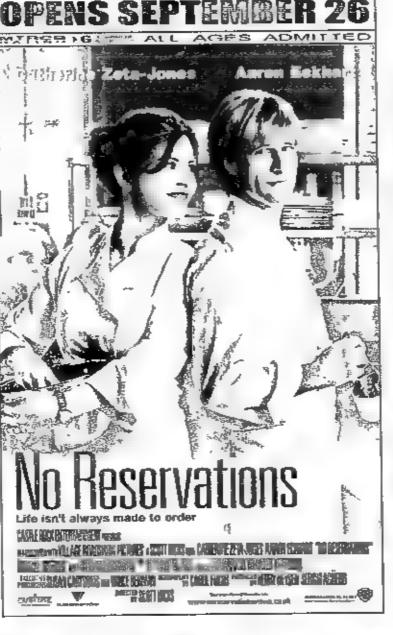
Shortly after making her H'wood debut, Iza Calzado shoots a Pinoy indie flick

TAKING a coffee break with friend Denise Albert, left, and director Yam Laranas, center.

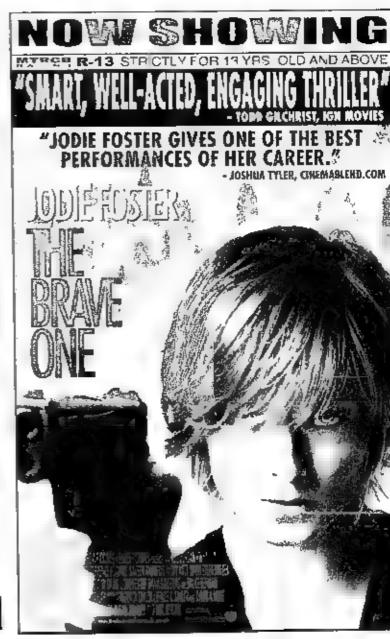


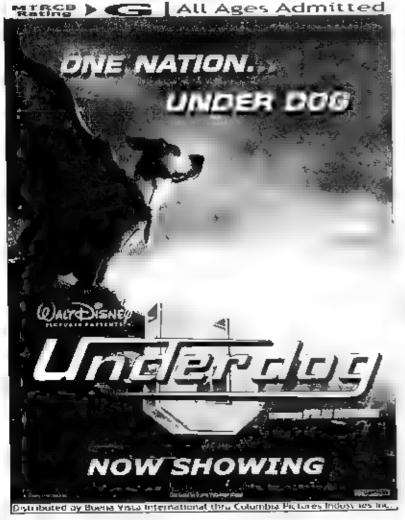
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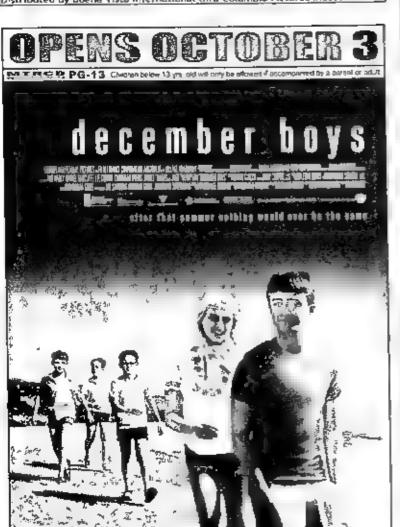


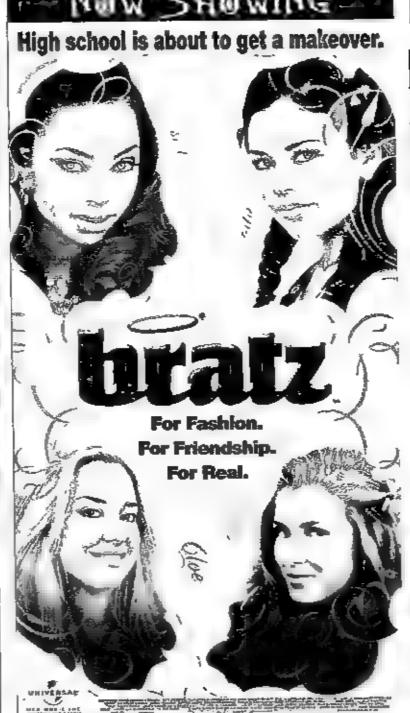


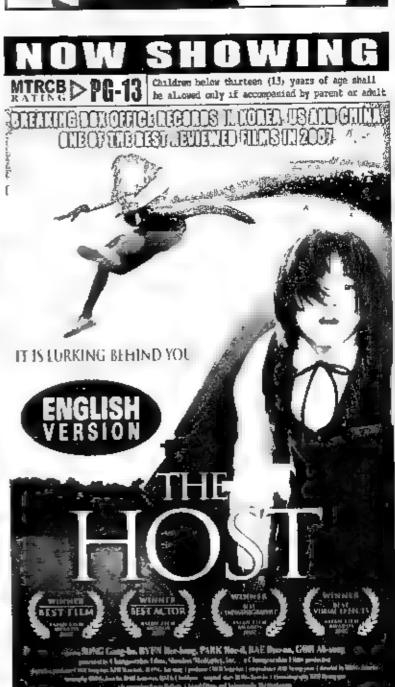
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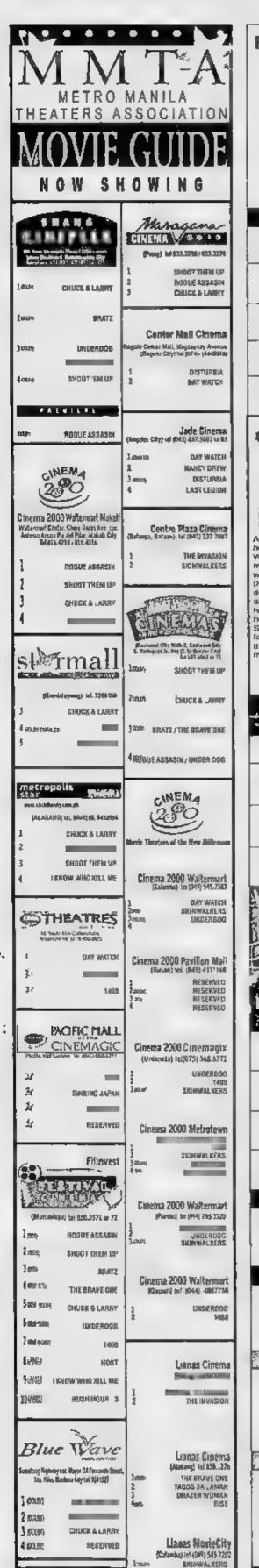




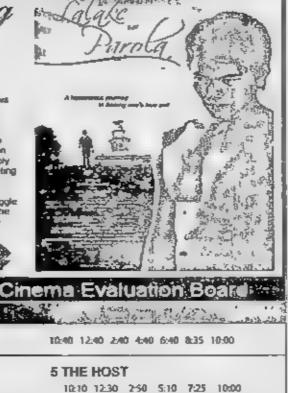








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STARMILLS

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1 SKINWALKERS



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Pareño,

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IN THE 1970s, she specialized in "hooker-witha-heart-of gold" roles, says director Elwood Perex. "She was spunky."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GINA PAREÑO

🗖 HIS PAST YEAR, WHENEVER she had to attend an awards show here or abroad, actress Gina Pareño never left home without these essentials: a rosary, a tiny angel figure and a small framed photo of late friend Bong Eraña.

In bringing these trinkets, she explains to INQUIRER Entertainment in a series of interviews that spans over a year, she is "sharing" not only her victories, but all her experiences-big and small, sad and happy moments-with God and Erafia who passed away six years ago

"That's why I relate to my character Amelita in 'Kubrador,'" she says in Filipino, "Our loved ones who've left us never really left us. They're still here, guiding us, helping us. Sila ang pumapadrino sa atin sa Itaas (They mediate between God and us.)"

By all indications, Pareño has pretty influentia, mediators in heaven: 2006 was a banner year for her.

She recounts that those lucky charms were in her purse when she won Best Actress in India, Belgium and France (for Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador")—and when she virtually swept the local awards derby as Best Actress (also for "Kubrador," from Pasado, Gawad Tang.aw, Golden Screen Enpress and Uman) and Best Supporting Actress (for Jose Javier Reyes'

"Kasal, Kasalı, Kasalo" from the Metro Manila Film Festival and Star Philippine Movie Press Club)

Talent manager Ed Instrella, a self-confessed fan from the Stars '66 days, comments: "She always stood out. She had the same appeal as Bridget Bardot. It's great to know that the promise of '66 reached full bloom in '06."

That Pinay Bardot, however, was brash and boyish growing up in the 1950s.

Born Geraldine Acthley, she describes her young self as "gangly, flat-chested, with short

hair .. a malnourished mestiza" who'd "pass for a boy."

She says her mother Patricia Ocura, a takilyera (ticket seller) at the Mayfair Theater on Avenida, thinks she looks "like my German-American father." An only child, she never met him. "All my young life, my mom was the only one with me," Gina says without rancor.

To help mom make ends meet, she juggled odd jobs at a very tender age. At 13, she worked as tricycle driver on the streets of Zapote and JP Rizal, Maxati. "My last stop was Bermeheco. Tricycle fare was only 20 centavos. I was so glad every time I earned P2. Ang galunggong noon, 10 sentimos isang tumpok (a mound of fish cost 10 centavos),"

Odd jobs

She sold mangoes and maruya (fried banana fritters) on Sampaguita Street, near the Hippodrome, every Sunday, when there was a race at the Sta. Ana tracks

The street-smart lass, however, secretly murtured a dream of becoming a movie actress. "Maarte ako (I was melodramatic) I would often practice crying in front of the mirror."

Her golden ticket proved to be the ABC variery show "Dance-O-Rama." Only 14 at the time, Gina was declared the daily, weekly, monthly and finally the year's "Miss Dance-O-Rama."

Boots Anson-Roa, co-host and wife of the late "Dance-O-Rama" host Pete Roa, remembers Pareño as "a flawless beauty with porcelana skun "

Gina recalls, "I didn't care about the cash, all I wanted was to act." Part of the prize was a cameo in the show's big-screen version, which would top-bill reigning movie queen Susan

Soon enough, Dr. Jose Perez of Sampaguita Pictures sent her a call slip.

For eight months, she toiled in bit roles. "Nag-extra muno oko. That was my training. I was paid P3 per movie. When I tell today's

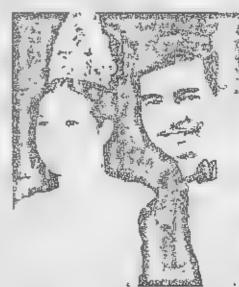
young stars abo

laugh.'

She remember Perez, finally to---in the smorgasi Later, she wa Gutterrez's lad By then, my

per picture," sh Ever the material strict Sampagun on heromes Quite fitting A. Jr.

ginal ingénue and "Dugo ng Bampri "I had already 🚜



PERENNIAL partner Tommy Abuel says Gina is an instinctive actress. "She always knows what to do on the set."

> stunts on horse -In "Dama," she boa constrictor | 1 loosen the snal-needed to put itts at and my body, or the When the snake

Pareño did as si 🕟 reptile surge to eraman was so ing the camera.



farst ta ent fee, they

to the public, and Doc nce when she appeared Irama, "Mama" in 1966 asted to play Ecdin in "Eccae Longiegs" v had gone up to P8,000

she never really fit in the " of "sweet" screen

portrayed twins, a virood-sucling baddie, in

irbirth when I made that movie," she exclaims.

By the rime she conned , te sexy costurie of the Pinay superherome:in "Darna at Planet Man" in 1969, she points out, "I a. ready had three kids-Arturo (now deceased), Raquel and Muchael.

Recalls director Elwood Perez, who worked with Pareño in films like "Si Popeye, Arbp." and "Bawa Asawa Mo, Asawa Ko" in he 1970s "She was spanicy. Full of verve and vitality"

Cina's take "Matapang ako (i was fear iess) "She thought nothing of performing gh wares red the screen with a ed the trainer how to J. He told me that I just nd between the snake v.twist its tail." a too close for comfort, told, making the poor ne camera. "The cam-

that he ran away, leav-

ng. Ang damung

nasayang na film (Reels of film got wasted)." Not even "Darna," however, prepared her for the Snakes and Ladders game that's show

By her own admission, she relished being the outsider.

Movies were hard to come by at this point, and the self-confessed rebel busied berself with rallies. She was a staunch supporter of the opposition, even though most show biz denizens were Marcos loyalists in 1978.

"I was just a silent supporter. I never went up the stage and campa gned for Laban, but I always joined motorcades on my own."

Comebacks

in 1984, she made the second in a string of comebacks after eight years of absence.

That same year she earned a double nomination from the Urian for two very different roles: a кооку jeweler in "Working Girls" and a martyr squatter morn in "Bulcas, Luiuhod ang mga Tala." (She went home empty-handed then.)

In both movies, Tommy Abuel was her partner "She was instinctive then," he says. "She always knew what to do in front of the camera."

Although she seemed the consummate professional onscreen, her life was in a shambles.

In the early 1990s, she got in trouble with the law for substance abuse

"The pouce raided my home. They took everything, all my movie memorabilia. Even my braand lingene," she recalls in a tragac-comic tone. But she weathered that crists as well.

"Noong nagkarnali ako, noong na-rehab ako, I told God. 'Sorry po. All I want is to act. I need to come back po. I muss acting terribly." In the mid-1990s, she became a regular in ABS-

CBN and Star Cinema projects.

Filmmaker Rory Quantos remembers a different Pareño on the set of "Ipagiaban Mo the Movie 2" in 1997

"She is always full of surprises. She is one of the few actresses I know who can deliver five or six. different emotions in one line of dialogue," Quintos opines. Gina came up with such "layered" perfor-

mances because she always reports on the set prepared, Quintos notes. "She does her own sequence breakdowns."

Gina admits that she keeps very detailed notes on her scripts. "I would mark the scenes where my character appears. I would put a star beside the sequence number if it's a dramatic highlight."

No matter how early her call time the next day and how late she wrapped up the night before, "I make sure to read the script two hours before i sleep."

"I always tell younger actors to emulate seasoned, disciplined actors like her," says Quintos, who reunited with Gina on the ABS-CBN soap opera "Ysabella" this year.

"She is so real," says Judy Ann Santos of her mom in "Kasal" and guardian in "Ysabella." "I've



MINISTRUH OC

seen her at her happiest and most vulnerable moments. When Bong died, I saw how she coped."

Gina looked up to Eraña, who once starred in IVN movies as teen star Nemita Vidal, as her "mentor"

"Bong helped me a lot-in so many ways," she remunisces.

On a trip to Dipolog, she was a bit cranky and failed to smile at fans at the public market. Eraña gave her a dressing-down. "Bong reminded me" You've had three comebacks already. If you really want to continue acting, you should learn to adasst and be mee to other people because they're the ones who support your career.' Show biz folks would only flatter you, but Bong told me the

Lesson in humility

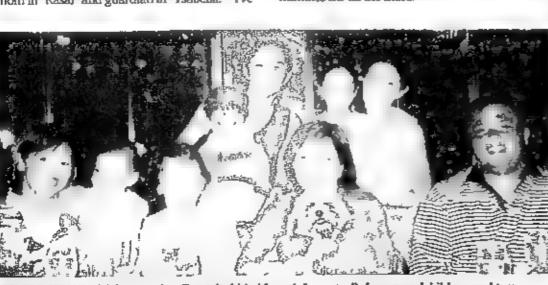
Eraña taught her humility—a lesson that is all the more important in a time of plenty, she says. "I didn't know that it was possible ... that you can be content and humble at the same time. If I don't win another award, I'd be fine."

Twenty-three years after her first double nomination from the Utian, she again scored twin nods for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress from the country's premier crines' group this year. (She won her first Urian for "Kubrador")

"I was so excited," she rells the INQUIRER a day after the Unan triumph.

It's because for her a trophy is no longer just a trophy. It's redemption and recognition rolled into

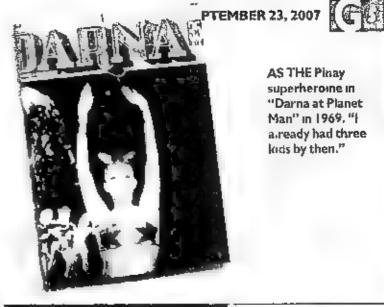
"All I wanted to do when I was a kid was to act. Then I got into drugs and lost everything. But I was able to recover. Nakabawi ako sa lahat. Now, everyone, from stewardesses to cigarette vendors, call me Ma'am Gina. I feel their respect and it humbles me all the more."



CELEBRATING with her mother Patricia (third from left, seated), four grandchildren and two children Michael (first from right, seated) and Raquel (first from right, standing).

SHE spends quiet weekends in her rest house in the province, where she takes care of orchids. JENGUIAD PUNZALAN

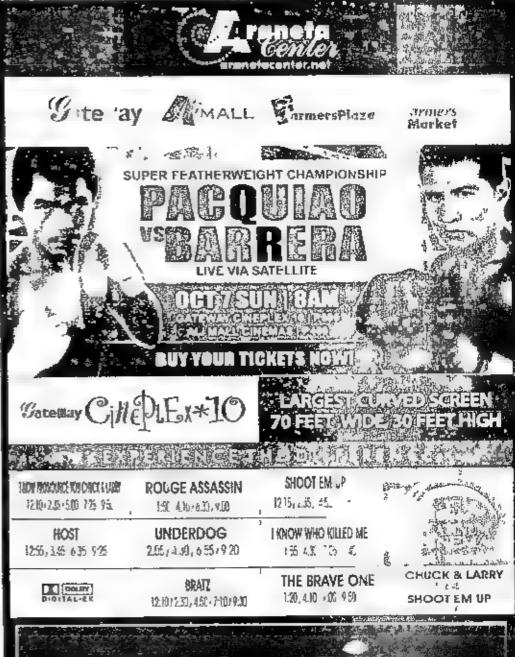
AT THE 2006 Toronto film (est. with "Kubrador" director Jeffrey leturian.



AS THE Pinay superheroine in "Darna at Planet Man" in 1969, "I aiready had three lads by then."









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Frustrated newbies from reality search rush back home

ed with a giant network exploited new talents, all products of a reality search. He was supposedly paid P15,000 for two hit songs, Inclusive of royalties. Plus, he said, he and

A YOUNG SINGER TOLD A SHOW BIZ his batch mates do not have copies of their veteran how a production company affihat- contracts. Last he heard, his fellow newbies are back in their hometowns, disenchanted.

But not for Jen

A GMA 7 insider insists that Jennylyn Mer-







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cado was not pulled out of the planned series "Love Pow," says she turned it down. Another Kapuso source says Jennylyn was never in the picture. "Pasan Ko ang Daugdig" wasn't for Jen, either, said the source. "It was really meant for Yasmuen Kurdi. Jen's next big

project for GMA 7, the source said, is a remake of the Sharon Cuneta movie, "My Only Love," which will be shot abroad.

JENNYLIN Mercado

Heartless heartthrob

This hunk has a mean streak.

When a production staffer slipped and fell on the floor, the TV host laughed uncontrollably. But karma was swift and just as merciless. He burraped slammed into a glass door, and onlookers cracked up.

Oldies, goldies

NEW YORK-When it comes to picking up royalty checks, the oldies are still the goldies, according to a new list naming veteran rockers the Rolling Stones as the top earning musicians of the past year. According the Forbes.com website, the Stones earned \$88 million from June 2006 till June this year, thanks largely to their "Bugger Bang" tour, which kicked off in 2005 and has grossed \$437 million to date. And although 37-year-old rapper and head of Def Jam. records Jay-Z came second in the list with total income of \$83M, most of the top earners are better known to toe-tapping older generations.

Madonna, 49, came in third with \$72M. US hard rockers Bon Jovi took home \$67M. Elton John, 60, earned \$53M, ahead of Canadian pop singer Celine Dion with \$45ML AFP

Top of the

tabloids



SUNSHINE Dizon

The top show biz stones in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

 Tetchie Agbayanı, ayaw mag-pose sa FHM. "I won't glorify God kung maghuhubad

ako."—Jennica Garcia Karylle pinayagan nı Dingdong Dantes na.

·Kahit strabt na niyang maliit ang kunya, Joseph Bitangcol, madalas hipuan ni Keanna

Dennis Trillo, Aliur Abrenica at Marky Cielo, pinagpiyastahan ng mga badung! (As in?) · Pagkatapos ng break-up nilo ni Sam Milby,

Anne Curtis nawawala. (Sa sarili, a without a trace?) Game show ni Kris Aquino, titigbakin dahil

se poor ratings. (Who's gorma tell her?) *TV show ni Mel Tiangco, tsugt na? (Some-

thing in the air?) Kim Chru, Gerald Anderson, nasampan sa

halikan!

•Kim, 'di nalasahan ang halik ni Geraki? (Ano kaya talaga?)

 Lampungan runa Ogie at Regine sa

TV, nakakadiri. (Baпатап nakakainggit?) • Regine and

Ogie's PDA annoying. (If you insist.) *Tsısımis kina John Prats, Shaina

Magdayao

mamatay. •Rayver Cruz doubts John, Shama are sweethearts.

dyttw

•Shaina says it's Rayver, not John counting her (Kaya pale.)

 Aiko Melendez bata pa, nakaka-**SNOOKY Serna** dalawang asawa no.

 Third party so hivedayang Aiko-Martin, tukoy na. (Afraid.)

· Usaping pero, pasok sa hiwalayang Aiko-"Aiko, di na ginagamit ang apleyido ng

aşawa. (Mahirap ı-spell?) Aiko, battered wife? Phoemela Barranda, bugbog-sarado sa gr-

tanstang BF? (Cute pa naman 'yon. May balibag factor pala?) Sunshine Dizon, ayaw mapag-usapan ang

*Sunshine on Angelu: Kung gusto niyang mambuking, e di mambuking siya nang mambuking."

love life. (Kamı rin; tama na 'yan.)

 Angel Locsin, sising-sist sa paglipat sa Dos? Tapatan nina Juday at Angel, niluluto. (Talo

Sunshine, naubusan ng lakas sa "Imposto-

si Angel; course ni Juday 'yan, 'di ba?) Angel, nag-react sa pagpasok na KC Concepcion sa Dos. (Kakabakaba ka ba?)

*Angel, nanamlay ang career! (Sagot, Ate. Becky!)

 Joey de Leon, indefinite leave sa "Startalk." Joey, naguhuhan sa natanggap na memo; namoalam muna sa "Startalk." (Reader Mary Ville, of 65218 Madrugada St. Chino Hills, Calfornia, reacts: "It's about time someone stuffed Joey de Leon's mouth. Please, we are sick and tired

of this same old subject—Wilhe Revillame—ev-

ery single day. We here in California pay so much



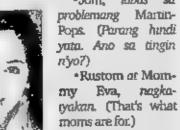
money to subscribe to their channel; do we deserve to hear his endless sour-graping?")

 Willie no comment sa leave of absence ni Joey; nakatanggap din ng sulat/guidelines mu.a. sa MTRCB. (An Inquirer editor, not this section's: "Nagmumukha tuloy mabait si Willie.") Resultu ng kontrobersya sa "Wilyonaryo".

Shows ng Dos, tinanggal sa YouTube. ·Martin Nievera: "Enough of monkey is-

sues." (Good call) Martin, tikom ang bibig sa kasalang Pops at

Jomari. (Kasal? Sigurado?) •Jom, labas sa



moms are for.) *Latake nt Rustom, bawal kina Rustom at Rommel.

Guanio

• Pia паріжоп, ANGELU de Leon

*tinalaka*n ong writer ng "Showbez Central " (Another one?) KC Concepcion at Lino Cayetano, nag-date

sa play n: Rachel Alejandro. Oyo Sotto, Kristine Hermosa nag-date so

isong KTV Bar. •KC not afraid of intrigues. (Who's her dad-

·Billy Crawford wants to invite KC to his concert. (What's wrong with that? He invited

•KC 'th dadalo sa concert ni Billy. (E di karri

 Mother Lily, suke na kay Snooky. Jay Manalo, suko so sugal.

*2 kasal ang pinapa-annul ni Snooky. (Anu-(יומאסא

 Aiko, Snooky malas sa lalala. Snocky, may problema sa utak!

Snooky, may sakit sa pag-ilsip? (Pareho yata

Mystery girl

*Sino ang "mystery girt"rd Piolo Pascual? (Don't look at us.) •Piolo: "Ang pogi ko." (Agree. Spin a win!)

 Piolo: "Wala pa akong girlfriend!" "Marama akong boyfriend!" — Iwa Moto

•Manan, mailap sa mga lalakil

 Marian, willing mag-pose at men's mag. (See, but no touch.)

 Piolo, nagpa-picture kzy Marian Rivera. (Mailap kaya si Marian sa kanya?) GF nu Mark Herras, lalayas na sa show biz!

(Sino nga 'yun?) . *Uma Khouny mas flawless on kay Wendy

Valdez na maraming peklat at kagat ng lamok. · Paolam ni Yilmaz sa mga anak, nasa outer

space lang siyu. (There's a ring of truth in this, you know) Aiza handa nang magpa-buntis.

· Aiza Seguerra type ang semilya ng Kano. Pagbubuntis ru Aiza naunsyamu. (E kung Brit

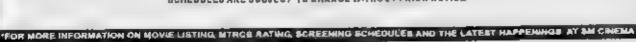
*Ara Mina to sing Lupung Hinirang' at Pac-

quiao-Barrera fight. Jinkee Pacquiao, nagalit nang malamang si

Ara ang kakanta ng Pambansang Awit sa laban ru Manny. (Who else is against this idea? Raise your hands.) Pauleen Luna, Mayor Sherwin

Gatchalian may probleme sa relasyon. (Ayan





Stage comeback

AWARD-WINNING actress Gina Alajar returns to the Philippine stage in Jessica Hagedorn's "Dogeaters," directed by Bobby Garcia for Atlantis Produc-

Gue place mutials rose from 1895 (888) English language theater role. She last appeared on stage in the Century Fox opens Tagalog version of "The Vagina Monolonus:

The plan many on now a line of the f Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati



ALEXANDER Ludwig

'Potter'-like

"The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising," which features magic, artifacts, mystery and good and evil characters woven into a stimulating story in- abella" recently shot vites comparisons to an episode at Subids the Harry Potter se- Lighthouse Marina

people will draw comparisons," says Alexander Ludwig, 14, of the film that has British books, a young hero who must confront evil and a great deal of magic. "But Will is totally different from Harry Potter in so many ways. As Will I have to figure Mi series program

inside of me." The film from 20th soon in local theaters, to be distributed by

Augitions

Stages is looking for young male taland the second firm and 13 to 19 for a career in recording and tele-

Applicants should be good-looking and can sing or dance. They should bring to a minus-one CD.

Auditions are set at the Stages office, Unit 606 Greenbelt Mansion, Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makau City on Sept. 29 and 30, 2 to 8 p.m. Call 8181111 kpc, 225.

Subic shoot

The TV series "Ys-Resort, which was They do have a lot used as backdrop to



ROUNDUP

of similarities and Derek Ramsey and can boxer Brik pear in a TV commer-

Star endorsers Actress Angel beverages. Locsin and Mexi-

Angelica Pangani- Morales are the cisi, were chosen beban's onscreen ro- new endorsers cause, according to new healthy

The pair, set to ap-

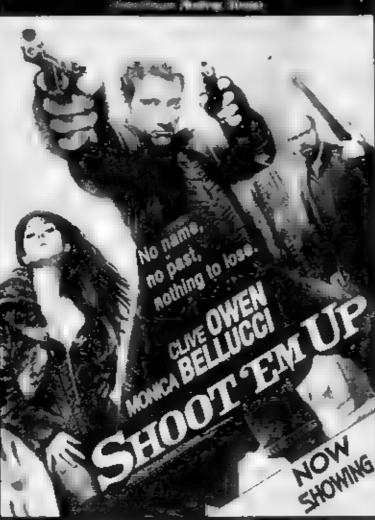
of Magnolia's the product manline of agers, "they embody fruit the healthy lifestyle espoused by the beverages."

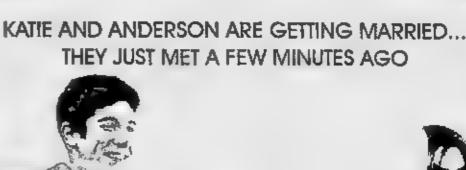
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Love, violence in the language of Javier Bardem

LOS ANGELES-IT WAS ENTRANCING to hear Javier Bardem speak in our recent press con with him at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.

While Javier was blurting out words in English, a language he is learning to master, he was speaking from his Spanish heart and mind. His answers were passionate, sometimes surprising, and definitely not gener-JC.

One of the few actors to win the Best Actor Award twice at the Venice Film Festival, Javier was quoted as saying about his English fluency in a different interview: "I'm getting more comfortable, but it will never get to the point as if you are doing it in your own language. When I say 'I love you' or 'I hate you' in Spanish, many things come to my mind, aspects of my own life. When I say it in English, I don't have the memories."

We guess it helps that his English coach is his long-time girlfriend, Cristina Pales, a translator in Spain. "We have many of our lessons in bed," said the first Spaniard to earn an Academy Award nomination, for his role as Cuban poet and dissident Reinaldo Arenas in "Before Night Falls." That performance and his riveting turn as a quadriplegic in "The Sea Inside" won him the two awards in Venice.

He may figure prominently in the next awards season for his portrayal of a drug world killer in the Coen brothers' adaptation of Cormac Mc-Carthy's book, "No Country for Old Men," Javier's character is so smister that he is described as having no sense of humor. But that precisely is what causes some nervous titter in



best we've seen this year. Joel and Ethan, whose credits include "Fargo" and "O Brother Where Art Thou," once again come up with an inventive film, which also stars Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones

Javier reportedly beat Johnny Depp for the role of Florentino Ariza in the much-awaited movie version of Gabriel García Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera," which is considered by some as one of the most beautiful love stories ever written

What was it like to be directed by two directors who are brothers?

Dealing with one director is a big task in itself. With two, you can just imagine. But the amazing thing about working with the Coen brothers is that you never fee, like you're dealing with two different people. It's like one person is giving instructions. There was never a struggle or contradiction in their statements or wishes. They are very easy and funny. With all this horror that I have to do, and sometimes I have my problems, the brothers were always bringing humor to the set in order to relieve the ten-

Your character is evil but your haircut is funny. How was that haircut arrived at? And what was some scenes. The film is one of the your reaction when you first saw

When I arrived in Santa Fe, I knew more or less the road to take with that character. But there were a lot of unanswered questions. There was not a lot of physical description of the character in the book. So the first question of the Coens was, "How do you want to look?" I said, "I don't

Paul (LeBlanc), the hair stylist who is a genius, said, "Come here for a second." He started cutting my hair and in two minutes, he did this whole horror of a haircut. We were in the makeup trailer. The Coens laughed. Ethan almost fell onto the floor laughing. I said, "What's wrong? I need a mirror." When I saw myself in the mirror, I was shocked. I said, "Okay, now I have 50 percent of the character I just have to put the other 50 percent." That's how good a professional like Paul can be. He had an image in his mind for my character. He did half of my work.

It was a curse, though, because I had to wake up every day with that hair (laughter). I was working only one or two days per week. The rest of the week, I was free, walking with that hair. No matter what you do, how much grease you put on that hair, it always stayed the same shape (laughter). The Coens owe me

Did you ever dream you would be in a Coen brothers movie someday?

They have done deeply American movies. Being a Spanish actor, I thought it was impossible for me to ever work with them. But a miracle happened. They called. I was pinching myself, saying, "I can't believe that I may work with the Coens " But I wasn't familiar with Cormac Mc-

RUBEN NEPALES Carthy's work. I read the script and I was like, "Oh, my God, that's too wild." I flew to New York to talk to the Coens. I said, "Listen, I don't drive, my English is not that good and I hate violence. I don't know if I'm the right guy for this movie (laughter)." They said, "That's why we want you (laughter)," I started to laugh I said, "You are totally nuts." They answered, "We are the Co-

HE WON Best

Actor twice at

the Venice

Film Festival

I said to myself, "I can't miss this opportunity." I knew that behind the violent story, there's a huge statement against violence. If anybody can pull that off, it will be the Coens. But I have to say that I had my problems. I've only done two movies where I kill people. This one, and another called "Perdita Durango," Holding a gun is not something that I particularly like But this movie shows how violence creates pain and misery. Violence doesn't solve things-it only de-

This is a very violent character. How did you cope with such a dark

For my own sake, thank God, the Coens created a nice, calm peaceful and funny atmosphere. If the set was

The good thing about playing bad is you realize how far you are from being bad'

filled with tension, then I would have had a hard time because I don't particularly like killing people (laughter). One of the things that shocked me was how American culture involves so much familiarity with guns. On the set, almost everyone knew about the caliber of the guns, how they work, their names. I was like, "What the hell (laughter)?" Where I come from, we are not obsessed with guns.

The Coens told us that you turned out to be a very good shooter. Did holding a gun push buttons in you?

I had to learn because the guy is supposed to be a good shooter. I went to this shooting gallery and .. I was like shooting with one eye closed. The guy training me was like, "What the hell? Have you done this?" I said, "No." I guess the reason I did we... was, I had no tension about wanting to do it well

When I grab one of those horrible things, I am supposed to feel power but I felt weak. Something's wrong about a man with a gun; it's not natu-

One of this film's themes is retribution. Do you get even when someone does you wrong or do you easily forgive?

I'm very good at forgiving Not forgetting but forgiving. You can't forget because to forget is like putting a wall to the memory that is going to teach



"Training future leaders is a hard task, but Sun makes our job easier by keeping us all connected at 50% less the cost." Junior Chamber International-Manila (Manila Jaycees) President, Louie Basilio

The country has changed a lot since the Manila Jaycees held its first organizational meeting sixty years ago. But its character has stayed consistent - it continues to be seen as a "University of Leaders", with its members as its students, leadership development as its curriculum and, the world as its campus

And Sun, of course, keeps them all together,

The Manila Jaycees was organized to help each member reach new heights In their respective careers and become leaders in their communities. Sun now helps them carry out their plans of success. With most members choosing Sun, communication is easier, faster and more convenient. Reminders regarding community development projects, skill development programs and seminars are easily circulated via text-messaging.

"We can be in touch with members anywhere, all the time," says Manila Jaycees President, Loule Basillo. "There's no need to cut calls short. No need to worry about texting too much. For urgent meetings, we

can even teleconference because of the truly unlimited calls of Sun! We save a lot of time and money, thanks to Sun."



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Evil kid flick familiar yet suspenseful

NEW YORK-A long lineage of evil ality, right before your eyes. child movies - from "The Bad Seed" to "The Exorcist" to "The Omen" - has spawned "Joshua," which is at once fa-- 'm.har and yet startlingly inventive and

The feature debut from director and cowriter George Ratliff, best known for the documentary "Hell House," is a tantalizing, tense thriller in the most genteel of settings, which adds to the suspense.

Hedge fund manager Brad Carm (Sam sensitive boy with a talent for Rockwell) and his wife, Abby (Vera Parmi-__ga), have just brought their newborn daughter home to their high-rise apart ment on Manhattan's Upper East Side when strange things begin happening.

The baby won't stop crying and Abby can't sleep, in her increasingly fragile state, she turns reluctantly to pilis for comfort. Then she starts feeling paranoid, and Farmiga makes it seem as if she's slowly losing her grasp on re-

Most of the action takes place inside the apartment, and Ratliff makes great use of its long, dark hallway. There's also construction going on upstairs, and the incessant buzzing and pounding add to the sense of claustrophobia.

In the middle of all this turmoil is the couple's 9-year-old son, Joshua (played by the subtly creepy Jacob Kogan), a serious, the piano and a flair for the dramatic. He always seems to be around when homific events occur but he never seems directly responsible.

Haunting cinematography

We know better - or at least we know enough to be suspicious.

What makes "Joshua" different, besides the haunting cinematography from Benoit Debie with its deep reds and blues, is the husband and father back when he was

way Ratliff and co-writer David Gilbert still fun and maybe a little crazy, have developed their characters. The parents don't just stand by feebly while their world disintegrates — they react like real people. And Joshua isn't obviously men-

acing from the start. He just seems understandably jealous and a little sad. He's a bit of a masfit with his per-

fect has, impeccably preppy clothes and intellectual curiosity you feel sorry for him - for a while, at least.

"Do you ever feel weird about me, your weird son?" Joshua asks one night as his dad is tucking him into bed. Brad reacts supportively, lovingly, the way any good father would. But Rockwell, who's made a career out of characters on the edge of reason, gives the role more nuance than you might expect. He offers a hint at what Brad was like before he was someone's

Celia Weston is doting and eerie at the same time as Brad's know-itall mother, Hazel, a born-again Christian who wants the baby to be baptized, much to the annoyance of Abby, who's Jewish.

Sporadic support

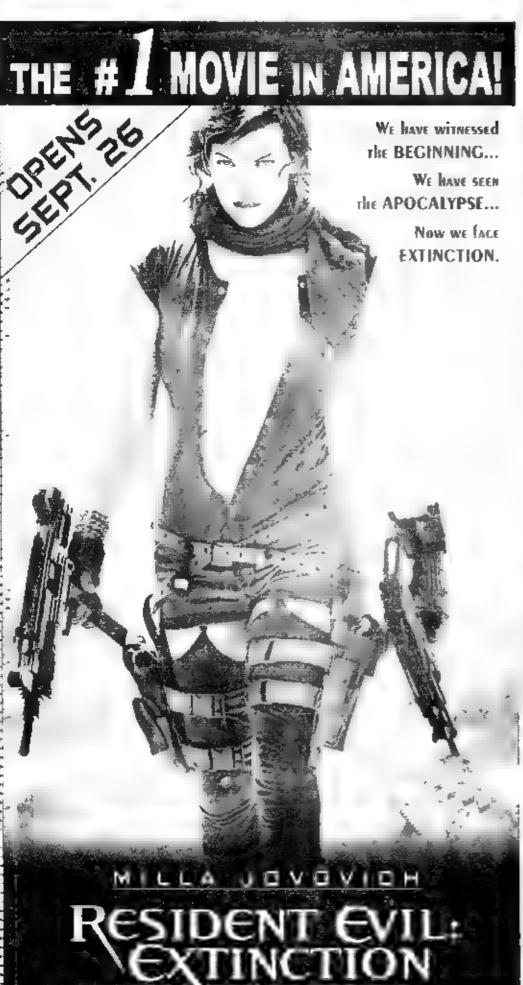
And Dallas Roberts makes the beyond his years. It kinds makes most of sporadic supporting appearances as Abby's gay brother, Ned, a Broadway producer who supports Joshua's obvious musical talent. He's also the first to recognize what's going on when Joshua intentionally mangles "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" during a school

> The moment is chilling. But if "Joshua" doesn't frighten you, it'll at least make you think twice about



VERA Farmiga and Jacob Kogan in "Joshua"

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Love, violence in the language

you how to overcome that situation. Forgiving is important, Like when I forgive you, I forgive the human race, my own human mis-

Is there anything good about playing bad?

The only thing good about playing bad is that you realize how far you are from being bad You feel better about yourself (laughter).

You and Josh bonded deeply while making this movie. Why did the two of you click so well?

I am so happy to have the chance to know Josh because aside from being a great actor, he's a great human being. He helped keep my feet on the ground. This is my first American movie, with an American crew, in an American landscape. I was the only foreigner on the set. Nobody ever made me feel like a stranger but you feel a bit detached. There was a moment when I was totally lost, like emo-



SERIOUS GUY, FUNNY HAIRCUT. Javier Bardem is anything but comic in the Coen brothers' dark drama, "No Country for Old Men."

tionally numb. Josh saw it and he took me out of there.

ONE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE ONE IMMOVABLE OBJECT.

NO BETREAT.

NO SUBBENDER

Jason Stat

You did the film adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera" this year. When did you read the novel?

When I was 14 years old- I'm 38 now I was too young to read that book But I realized how good a love story it was even though I wasn't familiar yet with what love means. But I was truly passionate about the book.

When I heard that Mike Newell was going to do the movie, and there was a possibility of me playing Florentino Ariza, the main character, I had to be there I liked the challenge of doing the whole journey of a man from when he was 20 years old to 75 years old, whose goal for 57 years is to win the love of a woman Thaven't seen the finished movie but I know that we worked hard. We approached the movie in a very humble way. We didn't pretend to bring Garcia Marquez into the movie. If we were able to capture a little bit of

> the book's flavor, that would be enough.

Can you comment on the wave of Spanish talents in the international cinema? Who do you credit for this influx?

Every Spanish actor and actress is indebted to Antonio Banderas. He was the man who worked his back learning a foreign language paved the way for Spanish actors We owe him, Penelope (Cruz) and (Pedro) Almodovar

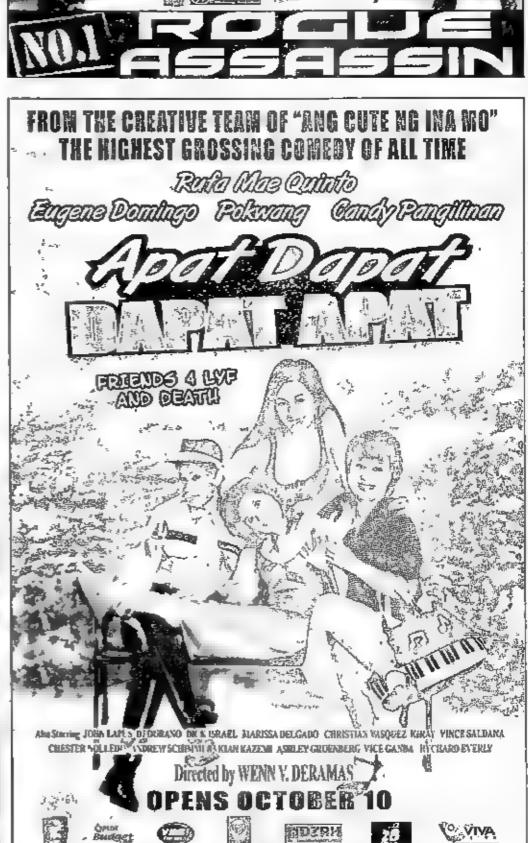
Fifteen years ago, when you broke out with "Jamon, Jamon," if we told you that someday you will be nominated in the Oscars, work with Woody Allen and the Coens and act more in English than Spanish movies, what would have been your reaction?

I would have thought that you were totally nuts.

Now many Spanish actors want to be Javier Bardem.

It's not that they all want to be Javier Bardem because then it will be a disaster (laughter). But they rearize that people who film in Spain like Woody Allen, Milos Forman and Steven Soderbergh go back home and say, "Wow, those Spanish actors are great," We have to forget the feeling of inferiority that we sometimes carry.

E mail the columnist at rynepales 55 85@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report, "ion www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesre-



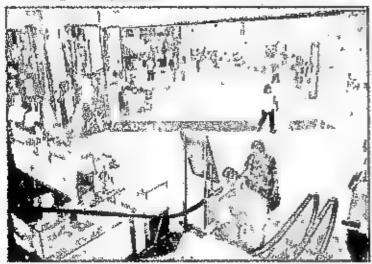
Sunday/ LIFE TYLE

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Enjoy the shopping convenience of having the top brands and your favorite restaurants all under one roof at The Podium



THE Lounge activity center



SEVEN-hectare area, six levels, 180 tenants

Text by Rowenz C. Burgos Photos by Romy Homillada and Jim Guiao Punzalan

Reminiscent of Posh Malls abroad, The Podium in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City corners the growing high-income bracket shoppers that its sister mall, SM Megamall, has left untouched.

Known before as the parking area for SM Megamati customers, the Keppel-SM joint project, which opened in 2002, aims to give upscale retail shoppers a different experience.

"The Podium serves the A and upper B segments, included in the customer demographics are the businessmen and women of the Ortigas business district and the young urban professionals in the vicinity," says Christian Mathay, mall manager.

Surrounded by the Asian Development Bank, Linden and Discovery Suites, and a stone's throw from office employees of JMT and Benguet Centre as well as the restaurants of El Pueblo, the 7-hectare Podium has six floors of 180 tenants, including kiosks and carts.

The Podium houses apparel shops, fine leather and luggage, specialty shoe shops, accessories and jewelry, sporting goods, specialty shops, restaurants/food stalls, home furnishings, health and beauty shops, IT/gadget shops, books/music and video, art galleries, entertainment centers, banking and service shops.

The most recent additions include The Ramp (fashion apparel for men, women, young adults and children), Sebastian's Ice. Cream Studio (gournet ice cream in unique.



THE Podium at 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

flavors) and Opera Fine Art Gallery.

According to Mathay, a three-day sale on Sept. 28-30 will offer up to 70-percent discounts on fashion apparel and other items and food.

The Podium's two cinemas has 150 seats each, with facilities like wheelchair ramps for disabled persons. Ample parking is available

The mall is open on weekends, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Restaurants at the exterior ground floor are open until 1.30 a.m.

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Continental club

Everyone who appreciates fantastic crepes knows he or she can always have it at Café

Cafe Breton has been known for its savoury and dessert crepes. Served as main course, savoury crepes are made of buckwheat flour and filled with meat, sausages,

seafood and vegetables

Dessert crepes, on the other hand are made of white wheat flour and are per fect with fruits sweet sauces and topped with nuts and whipped

Fstablished
n 1998, Caté
STRAWBERRY
Breton now has nine
Outlets at The Pod um (tel 6875971), Mail of
Asia, TriNoma, Greenbelt, Pasong Tamo
Westgate, Tomas Morato, Tagaytay and Sta.

As de from crepes. Café Breton's other bestsellers are Hamburcrepe (burger patty on a bed of spinach sautéed mushrooms, cheese and topped with tomato

provencal), Lost Paradise (stewed apples with cinnamon vanii a ice cream and raisins marinat ed in rum), Breton Mozzarella Burger with side saiad, Chicken

HAMBURCREPE Kun (chicken breast fillet topped with asparagus and cheese sauce on whole wheat toast), cold and hot coffees.



MARIELA Luna (far right), owner and interior designer of Cafe Breton, with cook supervisors Tammy Alcantara and Adel Deona

The Podium is the place to go for specialty European cuisine

Text by Rowena C. Burgos Photos by Romy Homillada

HE PODIUM REMAINS ONE OF ORTIGAS CENTER'S GREAT EATING places. Paella, crabs, roast chicken, grilled famb, Greek saridwiches, kebabs, smoked salmon and crepes are only a few of the specialities to be savored in various restaurants during your visit.

Cafe Mediterrancen

An oasis of gourmet offerings, Caté Mediterranean Bavors of the Sun (tel 6317297) was established in 1994. Aside from the 50-seater Podium outlet, the restaurant has seven other branches in Makati, Rockwell, Ouezon City, Alabang, Mall of Asia, Boracay and Davao.

There's no nicer way to while away an afternoon or evening than with Greek Little Plates (pita bread, garbanzo bummus, black ofive tapenade, cucumber tzatziki, baba ghanoush, falafel, meatbalis and tabbouleh). If you're looking for real pizza, the restaurant's chef transforms flour, cheese, tomatoes, ham and sausages into magnificent creations. Margherita, Greca, Mediterranea, Ragu and New York.

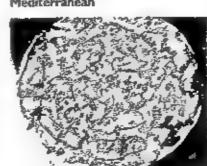
Soups, salads, stews, Greek sandwiches, papini with fries, smoked salmon, chicken, burger, pasta, fish, lamb, kebabs and desserts are also proffered.

"What the restaurant offers is Mediterranean cuisine given a contemporary twist. It's not fusion," emphasizes Maria Tañada, owner of Caté Mediterranean.

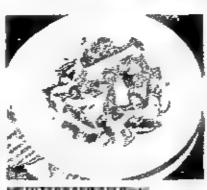
With Cafe Mediterranean serving plates of Mediterranean food at reasonable prices, Tañada expressed confidence in the diner's continued success because "the Filipino palate has become diverse and is now open to a lot of experimentations."



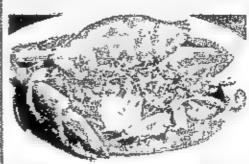
MARLA Tanada, owner of Cafe



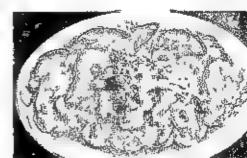
GRECA Pizza



HEIDTERBANNEAR PROF



CASA Armas' Cangrejos (Thanlong Style King Crab)



ZARZUELA de Mariscos (Mixed Seafoods)

A good restaurant to begin your food trip in is Casa Armas Tapas Bar Y Restaurante (tels. 6873863/6873370). Located at the ground floor, it's a fine-dining place where great Spanish cuisine can be had for a good price. The rustic design of the 120-seater restaurant is reminis-

cent of a Spanish bistro or taberna.

Jesus Armas put up the first Casa Armas in 1995 in Malate, Manila.

"What he wanted was to create a nice, cozy atmosphere that felt up scale but not stuffy, so diners could come often," says Lorraine Lim Aguila, who owns and manages the franchise outlets at The Podium, Greenbelt and Jupiter in Makati with her sister Lora Rodrigo

For Armas, cooking in a contemporary Spanish style in a country where most people's knowledge of classic Spanish cuisine begins and ends with paella was almost a daring act.

"Señor Armas offered his home country's regional dishes as well as updated classics. I can say that he was the one who started the paella, rengua, callos, boquerones and tapas craze in the restaurant business," Aguita says.

The restaurant's bestsellers include Snipe Bird Adobo Flakes, Lengua Estotado, Callos, Paella Valenciana, Paella Negra, Roast Baby Pig, Roast Chicken, Tabla Casa Armas Especial, Croquetas de Pollo, Croquetas de Jamon, Angus Beef Steak and Churros con Chocolate.

For people who love food, says Aguila, Spanish cuisine is all about flavor and the joys of eating. "It's a way of enjoying life by sharing good moments and tastes with friends."





LORRAINE Lim Aguila, owner of Casa Armas franchise at The Podium



ASADO de Pollo Ensu Jugo (Roast Chicken)

Fuss-less good eats



Right next to Fuzion is the Pinoydon (tel

restaurant opened its first branch in 2002

Ancidan results and balance with the second of the second

ing (1) in the company of the second second

Pinoysushi (Filipinized sushi rolis).

6311198) that serves Fitipino dishes cooked the

With orean, simple intertors, the 70-seater

It offers Pinoy rice bowls (in generous servings),

salads, noodies/pasta and desserts. It also serves

PHOYOGRADIE

Pinoydon

Japanese way.



SESAME Prawn Salad



and the state of t

cream and chocolate syrup)

BANANA Surprise (maruya fritter topped with vanilla ice

Following the Donburi style of cooking, Pinoydon uses Filipino breakfast favorites to create such ingovative dishes as Bistekdon, Adobodon (pork and chicken adobo varieties), Cornydon (corned beef guisado with potatoes and eggs); Bellydon (bangus belly); Tocidon (tocino), Longidon (tongganisa) and Tapadon.

Podium establishments provide a relaxed ambience for people who simply want to enjoy their food

Text by Belie V. Bondoc Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

HE PODIUM PROMISES-AND delivers-a new casual dining experience for diners who want to eat well but do not need all the fuss.



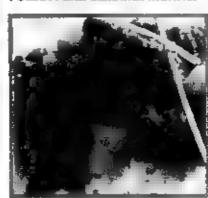
Fuzion Smoothie Café



CREAMY Seafood Pasta



FUZION Club Sandwich with fries



KOREAN Braised Beef

You can start your culmary ad venture at the fifth lever's Singapore-based Fuzion Smoothle Cate The leading smoothie chain in Asia has over 12 branches in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Phil p-

Husband and wife Jarome by and Mered th Ngo, who bought the master franchise for the Philippines opened the first cafe in 2005 at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Cen

The café offers smoothies with out ice and sugar it is the first in the country to serve smoothies made entirely from fruits and a oe nectar

"What makes the frosty beverage sweet and cold is the blend of blast frozen fruits and chilled aloe nec tar " said Lizette Abadicio, vice president for marketing. "So, it's healthy and delicious."

Aside from smoothies in different exciting flavors, the café also offers pastas, sandwiches, sa ads, pizzas. Asian Jumbowls (rice meals) and the South Beach Diet Gril s for health-conscious diners.

Fuzion has now six companyowned local branches and a franchisa café which opened recently in

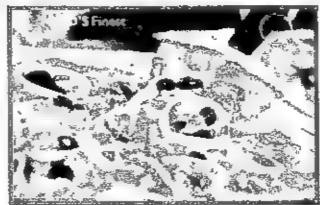


If you do not go for Japanese food, then try the popular New York Pizza Delivery (NYPD) also on the fifth level beside The Podjum Cinemas. The NYPD Podjum branch was launched in May under a new manage-

The pizza place caters to a young market. The place usually gets the "after" crowd-afternoon, after movies and, yes, after-meat. "They're [really] our target market. We've been receiving good feedback. from many Podium-goers," said Paulette See, owner and managing director of NYPD Pizza Delivery Corporation. "This is why we're challenged to continue what was start-

At NYPD, diners are assured of "a combination of excelerat food and impeccable service," said See.

The company is known for its gourmet



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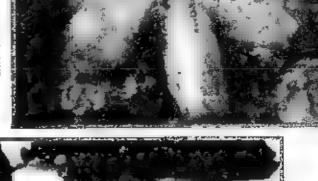
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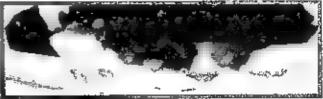
pizza. "We make our thin crust pizza from scratch to ensure freshness," she said. Some ingredients are imported while others are delivered fresh daily.

The restaurant's bestsellers include the Meat Lovers Pizza, the NYPD's Finest (pizza with sausage, salami, bell peppers and olives), Buffalo wings and the Baked Ziti.

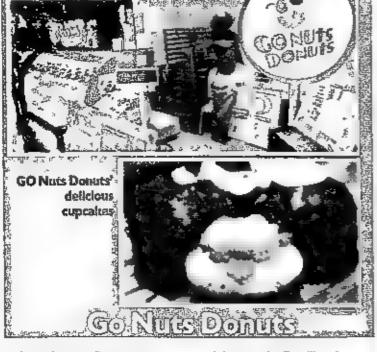
NYPD's delivery hotline is 6316973.



BUFFALO Wing



BAKED Ziti



A quick sugar fix is always available at Go Nuts Donuts.

But even those who have to watch their sugar will still find something to like at the doughnut company. It introduced recently the first-of-its-kind Go Nuts Lite, no-sugar doughnut with the same melt-in-yourmouth quality as regular items. The doughout has less than a gram of sugar, lower net carbohydrate count and high fiber content.

Go Nuts Donuts has its own line of espresso flavored coffees and frozen blends called Mad Brews Must-try are the Kooky Koolers that mimic popular doughout flavors like Go Nuts Donuts' signature Amazing Glaze country.

and the popular Pastillas de

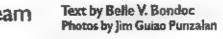
Some four months ago the company introduced another innovation, the Go Nuts Donuts Cupcakes. Made from highquality ingredients—callebaut milk chocolate pure Beigian sweet cream butter, farm fresh eggs, they use old-fash/oned noshortcut recipes

Go Nuts Donuts Cupcakes have moist and delicate cake base and have a longer shell life than any other baked cupcake in the market. Flavors are Hazelnut Crunch, Buttercrunch Toffee and Scream Cheese.

Go Nuts Donuts now has a total of 36 outlets around the

sweet dreams are made of these

From doughnuts to crepe, ice cream to ensaymada, The Podium has almost everything for dessert lovers



FOPLE WHO BELIEVE SWEETS AND DESSERT should constitute another food group may find The Podium exactly the place for them



Lord Stow's

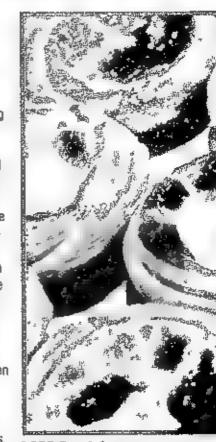
On the third level is Macau's famous Lord Stow's, known for its egg tarts. Described by some as little pieces of heaven, the tarts perfectly bring together color, texture and flavor. Yellow cream filling slightly burnt on top is placed inside the flakiest, crispiest pastry.

Known as pastels de nata in Portugal where they originated, they evolved into their present form through the efforts of Englishman named Andrew Stow and are now available in Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan.

In Metro Manila, Stow teamed up with Just Simple Bake House Inc. to make the famous egg tarts available to Flupinos.

The egg tarts are best eaten within six hours after purchase. They are also deliclous eaten cold from the fridge. But if you wish to re-heat the tarts, use the oven (not microwave), cooking at 200

Lord Stow's also offers cheesecakes, freshly-baked pandesal and sandwiches.



LORD Stow's famous egg tarts

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FESTYLE

Old reliables serve filling. ow-cost meals

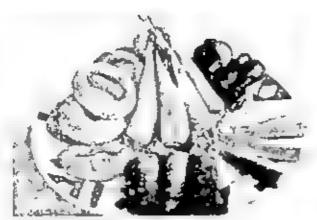
Familiar names remain? the major crowd drawers at The Pudium

ON DIRLY HAVE ID FOLLOW THE



Burgoo (tel 6875254), an all-American diner, has become a favorite with barkada and families because of its hefty servings With a seating capacity of 200. Burgoo is designed to accommodate large groups although a function room is also avauable for parties and special events

Highly recommended for first-timers and regular customers alike is the Supreme Sampler (P385) a combination of Buffaio wings, spring rolls, mozzarella sticks and onion rings. For the weight conscious Burgoo offers Seafood Caesar Supreme (P215), another bestseller; and Linguin with Clams (P165)



SEAFOOD Caesar Supremi

SUBWAY Club ...

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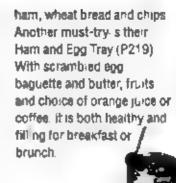


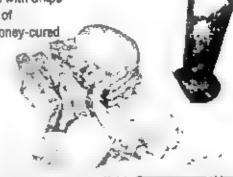
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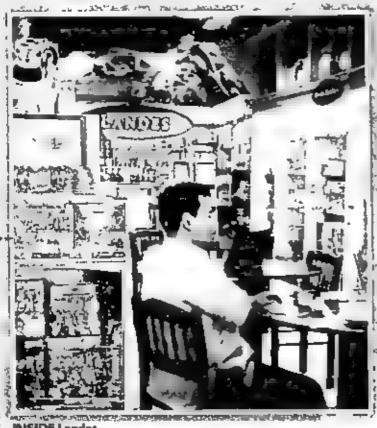
For those who go for light but filling meals, Delifrance would be a good choice, it is a cozy café located on the ground floor of The Pod um. mail, one of more than 20 branches nationwide. Delifrance specializes in pastries, croissants and bagueties, perfect for breakfast and light snacks.

Among its bestsellers is the Premier Clubhouse with Chips (P168), consisting of omeiatte, bacon, honey-cured

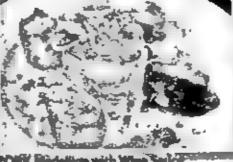
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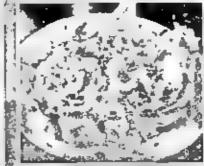














LA TOPE

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ients are sourced locally queso de bola Mary -neturar ingredients mada) will keep for a ong as you keep them he



Dimacali opened the first Mary Grace outlet in 2001 in Glorietta. She now has 11 kiosks and two cafes. She has added baked-items like brownies and lemon squares to her products.



Caté Mary Grace also offers pasta, salads and sandwiches All Mary Grace baked items are based on Dimacali's own recipes.

Sebastian (3/L of The Podium), a new Ice cream brand, offers unique and invigorating flavors to discriminating ice cream lovers.

"We [actually] consider our ice cream as works of art," said Vitto Lazatin, one of the owners of the Sebastian Ice Cream chain. "And the entire [kiosk] is the gallery. It is really very plain and simple, to (showcase) our product."

Lazatin, together with college friends lan Carandang and Tony Bondoc, put up their first ice cream station in 2006 in Alabang Town Center. The good reception encouraged them to open a branch at The Podium.

"It started as a hobby. Hove to make icecreams so I experimented with flavors. Some of them worked, while some didn't. It was really trial and error for us at first," said Carandang, the man behind the "weird" ice.cream flavors. He tested different ice cream blends then came up with over 50 distinct flavors.



ENIOY a scoop of Sebastian Ice Creem for P85.

The Maited Milkbal-Madness flavor (mailvan ita ice cream garnished with Malteser halves) is one of the bestsellers

Other exciting flavors include the Chocolate Chip * Box Cookie Dough (vanua ice CHANGE W. cream with unbaked chocolate chip cookie dough and walnuts), Chocoholics Anonymous (dark chocolate ice cream with a thick fudge swirl and dark chocolate chunks), Butter Pecan (rich butter ice cream loaded with crunchy butterroasted pecans), Mango Sansrival Cashew and the Duice de Leche con Fresca (sweet duice de leche ice cream with a tart strawberry swirl made of rea. fruit)

The team is coming out with a new flavor this October, in time for trick-and-treating during Halloween

Goodies

ad muffins by See's Goodies (3/L of The Podium, tels 7-5344528) are becoming quite popular among moms rugh it has been operating for only two months. Raffy See decided to start their small business when their own kitchen became a hit with friends and rela-C for 3-4

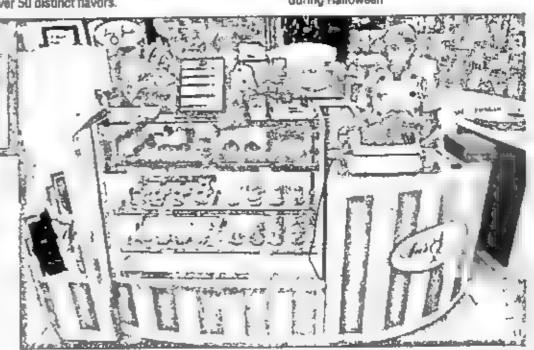
ites only has a limited number of baked items, but each

is are available in flavors—blueberry, cappuccino, be-

nana walnut, strawberry, chocolate, apple cinnamon, carrot, raisin, cheese, jaffa (choco chips and orange), peanut butter, corn and, the latest, choco banana (combination of chocolate and banana) and the

hokey pokey (caramelized sugar). "Our bestsellers are the blueberry and banana walnut muffins but kids (go) for chocolate muffins," said See

The brownies are also to-die-for with flavors like fudge, espresso, choco peppermint and a la mode. See's Goodies also offers healthy breads, perfect with a cup of brewed Cotabato coffee. Flavored tea and juices are also available.



Sunday LIFESTYLE



INSIDE Yalcu

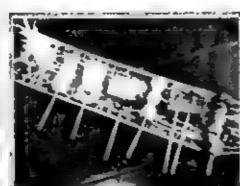


SHAKE Nitsuka

Yaku

With Asian fast-food chains popping up like mushrooms, high-end restaurants such as Yaku Japanese Grill (ter 6875368) had a hard time coping. While being located at the corner end of the third floor of The Podium mail may not help draw in the crowd, it does attract more of Yaku's target A-B market

"Our customers are mostly fore.gners, celebrities and politicians. Actually kami ang taguan ng mga artista. Kung gusto mo makakita ng mga artista on a date,



YAKU Platter

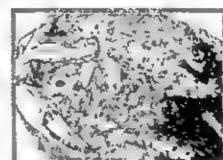
dito ka kumain," Neil Regalario, store manager, said half-jolongly. Dim lights, interiors in warm earth tones and mellow tunes create an ambiance perfect for those who want to have some peace and quiet.

The bestsellers are Yaku Platter (P225), a selection of okra, tuna, pork belly, asparagus and pork strips, quail egg, chicken with ocion leeks, Gyuniku no Yasaimaki (P160), spring onions wrapped in beef, and Shake Nitsuke (P175), boiled salmon with special Yaku sauce.





ASPHO.



Crustasia

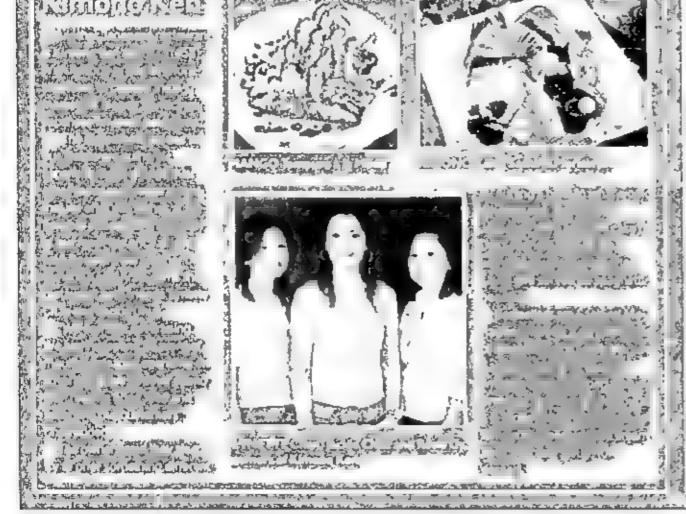




For customers feeling a bit adventurous or unsure of what Asian cuisine to go for, visit Crustasia Asian Crab and Food House (tel. 6313857) on the third floor of The Podium mall. The restaurant offers That. Vietnamese, Singaporean and Chinese ways of preparing crabs, lobster, prawns and shrimps.

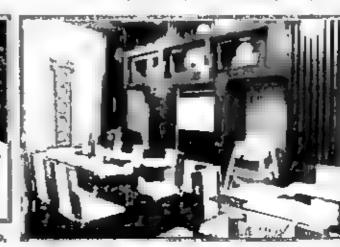
Crustasia has a Vietnamese consultant, That chefs and a Filipino chef as well. "Hindimo na maloloko ang Pinoy, lalo na ngayon na there are lots of opportunities for everyone to travel," said Lify Hao Chan, operations director. "We send our branch managers to travel around Asia to get a taste of the genuine and to keep tab of what's new in the food market so that we serve only modern. and authentic food to the Filipinos."

Bestsellers are the Singaporean Chill Crab and Black Pepper Crab (118/100g) for 1.1 kg and above). Vietnamese Seafood Passa (P365), seafood rice served on a cylinder; and Butter Calmeal Prawns (P375), prawns made sweet and crunchy. For dessert, try the Vietnamese. Saicon Cake (P95), alternately layered with pandariand yellow mongo, which is quite similar to our native sapin-sapin.



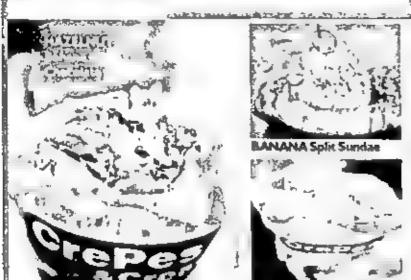


RAYMUND Magdalityo, Crustases owner



INSADE Crustania

Sweet dreams are made of these

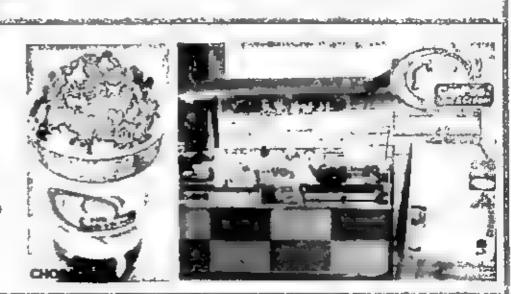


भुस्कृत सार्वं योक्स Crepes and Cream (Upper Ground Level of The Podium, tel. 6315758) tries to appease any kind of crepe craving. It specializes in aromatic wafer and specially concocted sweet and savory

A bestseller is the Hazelnut Banana Chocolate, a nutella chocolate spread and rich vanilla ice cream wrapped in a sweet crepe with sticed bananas. It is topped with roasted almond flakes and whoped cream and drizzled with chocolate sauce.

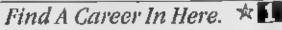
Also popular is the Chicken Chipolata, chicken and pork sausage with a mild lemon taste, cheddar cheese, crunchy lettuce and juicy tomatoes.

Crepes and Cream also offers sundaes, milkshakes and hot and cold beverages.



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The candidate must have the following skills and experience:

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- Professional experience of at least 8 years in an educational or training institution, together with at least 3 years experience in facilitating the work of a small team in developing new qualifications, programs and curricula, preferably in the land administration discipline
- Professional experience in any Land Administration and Management (LAM) technical field is preferred
- Active involvement in a professional organization, particularly in this organization's continuing professional development initiatives, is preferred
- Essential attributes include: . Positive attitude towards competencystandards based education and training systems. • Ability to effectively facilitate discussion sessions with small to medium-sized groups . Excellent communication skills

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Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to www.landequity.com.au, for detailed information about the company and to www.phil-lamp.org for the project information.

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Qualifications, Knowledge & Experience:

- University Degree in relevant courses and at least 5 years working experience as a health regulatory or health development/ management professional with strong involvement in program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation is required.
- Master or higher level qualifications related to Heasth/ Pharmaceutical Regulations or Public Health Management and previous expenence with health sector reform implementation is
- A good grasp of medicine access issues at national and global levels would be a distinct advantage

Skills & Personal Attributes: Candidate should have:

- Ability to interact at multiple levels using excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Tagalog.
- Ability to manage multiple and varied tasks with enthusiasm and prioritize workload with attention to detail
- A flexible attribde with respect to work assignments, new
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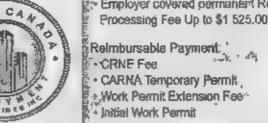
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AIMED AT PROVIDING A VENUE where direct recruiters, foreign principals, and OFW wannabes can meet for a 3-day grand recruitment-EventWork Company in cooperation with Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, WorkAbroad ph, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, opens OFW Jobs 2007 A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair, at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, on Oct. 18-20, 10 am - 7 pm.

With booth spaces available for onthe-spot interviews, a spacious lounge for jobseekers, a fill-up counter, a common job-posting board, and a fully-automated applicant registration system, courtesy of WorkAbroad ph-the event is sure to attract thousands of jobsockers each day wanting to work abroad.

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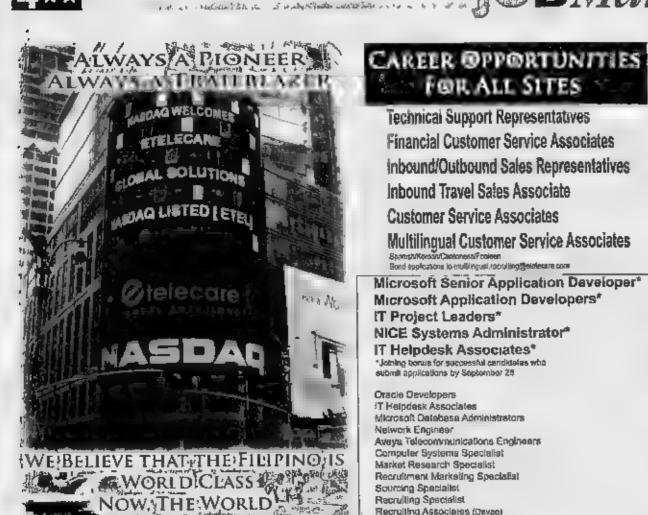
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- With professional driver's license

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- Male, Automotive Technology graduate
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- * With at least 2 years work experience in the automotive industry

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- Fernale, graduate of any Engineering or Business course
- * Excellent communication skills, knowledgeable in MS Office Has a good learning attitude, with or without experience

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- Male/Female graduate of any Computer Science or any IT related 4 year course
- Must have knowledge in computer programming
- Can prepare complex programs with minimal supervision Proficiency in Microsoft Access and Crystal Report is an advantage

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With at least 10 years working experience in establishment and maintenance of

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With at least 10 years experience in project management of high-rise buildings

PROJECT ARCHITECT

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GRAPHIC ARTIST

Musi possess a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts/ Design/ Creative Multimetia, and/or

Must be experienced in Adobe Blustrator or Corel Draw. Adobe Photoshop, MS

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing/ Business/ Communications/

LOANS PROCESSOR

Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Fiductor/

Must have at least 2 years experience in Arts/ Creative/Craphic Design

Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering or

With at least 5 years experience in Architecture/Interior Design

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With excellent oral and written communication skills

Briver, hardworking, resourceful and a seam player

With excellent graf & written communication skills

With minimum 1 year experience in web application

A teamplayer with strong interpersonal stills.

Office (Word & Powerpoint), and Mac OS X

Advertising or equivalent.

New graduates are welcome to apply

Accountancy/ Sanking or equivalent

Fresh graduates are welcome to apply -

Knowledge in Web Design and Flash Animation is a plus

With above average academic records, computer proficient.

Creative hardworking and resourceful; with good interpersonal stalls

With at least. I year work experience in a real estate company or towns Department of an established bank.

Highly analytical, been on details, willing to exceed working hours

Previous experience in a related field would be an asset. With excellent oral 6 written communication skills

Preferred skills: web design & development, creative design

AVP- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Must ture a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management
- Engineering/ Economics or equivalent Preferably with MBA
- With a least 15 years experience in business development functions/ market research/ financial modeling in a managerial capacity
- Professional, highly analytical, resourceful, results-driven

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

- Musi nave a Bachelor's Degree and/ or Master's Degree in Business
- Administration/ Management/ Economics or equivalent With at least 10 years experience in business development functions/ market.
- Mature, highly analytical, resourceful and results-oriented, teamplayer

MARKETING MANAGERS

- Must have ... Bachelor's Degree and/or Master's Degree in Business Administration/ Management, Marketing or equivalent
- With at least 10 years relevant work experience in marketing management,
- preferably in a real estate company.

 Creative, assertive, results-driven, with good interpersonal and presentation skills. teamplayer

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGERS

- Most have an existing u.S. and/or Europe visa
- Extensive travel experience would be an asset Willing to travel overseas 50% of the working time
- With at least 5 years sales management experience Independent, assertive, confident, teamplayer

BROKER NETWORK MANAGERS

- Marketing or equivalent from a reputable school With at least 5 years work experience, preferably in broker management with a
- key player in the real estate industry With an Impressive track record to selling real estate
- Should be available to brokers even on weekends. Must have the aptitude for organizational and managedal work
- Equipped with above average oral & written communication skills and excellent p esentaugo skills
- Assertive confident, dynamic and results-driven Ability to train people is a plus

10 mg MARKETING OFFICER

- Must have a Bachelon's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Minumum of 5 years relevant work experience. 2 years of which were in a
- supervisory level
- With proven skills in marketing management Previous experience in the real estate industry would be an advantage
- Have a good command of ord & written English Confident with excellent interpersonal skills

Male, must possess professional driver's licerae

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- Must powers a Bay refor's Degree or Masters Degree in Business Administration/ Management/ Economics/ Management Engineering or equivalent.
- Must have at least 5 years experience in business development functions/ market
- esearch financial modeling. Must be mature, highly analytical and ensourceful
- Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/ Management/
 Previous experience in business development/ market research/ financial analysis
- would be an astet.
- Must be confident good with numbers, highly analytical and resourceful Must have excellent oral & whiten communication stills

Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Must be a college graduate with excellent scholastic records
- Preferably with previous experience in providing sales support and it.
- coordination/ overseeing administrative jobs With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills: fast learner

Male candidates are preferred.

ACCOUNTING / TREASURY ASSISTANTS :

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Finance! Accountancy! Banking or equivalent. Previous experience in treasury/general accounting would be an advantage.
- Analysical, Item on details, hardworking and willing to extend working hours Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

Musichave, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management or

With at least 10 years experience, 5 years of which is in customer service

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

With at least 10 years experience, preferably from the banking industry in the

fields of CTS financing, mortgage financing and Pag-IBIG financing

Highly analytical and systematic with strong interpersonal skills

- Basin player, results-driven, with strong interpersonal skills

Must have a MBA or Masters Degree in Finance

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Musi, have a Master's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Economics
- Equipped with excellent oral & written communication skills Preserably with experience in corpian statistical analysis and/or business research Professional mature highly analytical, systematic and flexible
- Results-onented assertive can handle pressure on the job well-willing to estend working hours when necessary

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING OFFICER

- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent . With at less, 3 years working experience in recruitment (from rank & file to executive level positions) and corporate training (i.e. coordination facilitation and the conduct of training/ seminars)
- Mature, professional, flexible; highly organized & systematic; able to relate well with all levels in the organization
 - Computer profident

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Muya have a Bacheron's Degree in Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent
- preferably a CPA With at least 3 years related work experience, preferably in the real estate
- Can withstand pressure and knowledgeable in computerized accounting system
- Confident, resourceful, highly analytical and hardworking

LOANS OFFICER

- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Management/ Hinance/ Accountancy/ Banking or equivalent With at least 5 years work experience in backroom operations of a real estate
- company or Loans Department of an established bank
- Haghly analytical, professional, service-oriented, works with the highest degree of
- Keen on details, willing to render long hours, results-driven

: FINANCIAL ANALYST * Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Finance/ Accountancy/ Banking or

- Doessed CPA, with background in SAP applications
- Wish at least 5 years experience as a Financial Analyst
- Mature, assertive, with impeccable integrity

METHODS ANALYST

- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering or equivalent
 Must have experience in systems analysis & design, forms design, systems
- organization charting & analysis, and business planning Knowledgeable in M5 Office applications highly analytical and has excellent
- communication stalls
- Preferably with previous experience in a real estate company

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT Must have at fast a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or

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- Computer proficient

CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALISTS

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- Preferably with at least one year experience in Customer Service With above average scholastic records
- Must be fluent in oral and written English: highly personable Confident, outgoing and resourceful

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Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Taking care of workers takes care of business From personnel management to people management

By Roel A. Andag Contributor

THE SHIFT FROM "PERSONNEL management" to "people management" has significant connotations transcending semantics. Business practice is progressing from "depersonalization" (man as machine) to "humanization" (workers as partners). From being treated as mere peons, workers are now valued as individuals—complex human beings with needs and emotions.

The era of "walang personalantrabaho lang" workplace mentality is fading gradually. This development can be attributed to driving forces such as:

Appreciation of workers' rights. With the help of watchdogs and advocates, workers are aware of their rights and are more confident about asserting them. For its part, the company is aware of the potential consequences of violating these rights. Legal battles, workplace conflicts and loss of must are disastrous to the company.

increasing consciousness about work-life balance. Business owners and workers seek equilibrium In their life at work and beyond. Burnout and fatigue lead to absences and underperformance. Work-life balance counters the adverse effects of work-

Search for personal relevance in constantly morphing work conditions. Workers are pressured to cope with technological advances, outsourcing, mergers and

similar developments that result in the rapid obsolescence of competencies. Without proper retooling, workers feel disoriented and irrelevant.

Quest for competitiveness. Despotic companies simply cannot attract the best minds. Mistreated workers are not the best of performers. At the heart of a competitive company is a motivated workforce that accelerates productivity and profitability Availability of information, Information technology allows workers and watchdogs to obtain data easily Benchmarking work practices is just a Google search away. Mass media is also a helpful information source and a powerful aufluencer.

A company that insists on the primitive way of treating workers as mere production inputs faces extinction. Its comeuppance is near. Here are some ways of valuing people at work:

1 Ensure that workers enjoy entitlements that are mandated by law. Comply with regulations governing compensation, social security, housing and healthcare. A law abiding company will not have to deal with litigation costs and work disruption. Apply industry standards especially when they exceed the requirements of the law. Some companies provide daycare and scholarships for employees' children

2. Institutionalize continuous development. The first step is to know the workers' development needs. Armed with this knowledge, run responsive training, coaching and mentoring programs that provide vision and direc-



skills, improve relationships and facilitate change. Recognize employee's self-initiated activities such as volunteering in nonprofit organizations as

3. Greate a professional and comfortable work distante. Equip workers with technologies that enhance efficiency. Ergonomically designed equipment and furniture are worthy investments as they reduce work-re-

Beyond the physical, a work environment that minimizes conflict while

rage workers to be more innovative. Apply sound corporate and human development philosophies to

strengthen company culture. 4. Promote work life balance. Stress-busting exercises, rest and recreation activities, subsidized gym fees or in-house facilities, allowing people to conclude a workday at the eighth hour and offering alternative work arrangements such as telecommuting are just some of the ways to prevent

S. Maich jobs and persons strategition, enhance performance, optimize allowing creative friction will encou- cally. Avoid job mismatch by learning

about a person's real interests and man beings have emotions. In this skills in relation to business requirements and objectives. Half the battle is won when a job role is assigned to the best qualified person. Solid support, capability gap remedy, monitoring and evaluation will ensure that the role is executed satisfactorily.

6. Affirm performance. Grant meritbased raises, incentives and rewards. Depoliticize such decisions by using objective performance appraisals. Recognition can be in cash or kind as long as it symbolizes the significance of the worker's contribution.

7 Communicate openly and honestly. Establish mechanisms that engage management and workers in regular dialogue. Authentic communication characterized by verbal and nonverbal articulation and active listening fosters trust, promotes team cohesion, defuses conflict, reveals insights and encourages involvement

Democratize decision-making. Involve workers in making crucial decisions. Make sure that it is not merely token attendance in meetings but genuine participation. Allowing them to ventilate their views, with the assurance that their ideas are considered, paves the way for workers' buy-in and cements their sense. of ownership of decisions made.

9. Uphold the use of leaves of absence as a right. Labor law grants leave credits to workers. As such, leaves should never be dangled as "utang na loob" or rewards that are difficult to obtain.

context, emotion is not viewed as workplace soap opera but a state of being that is useful for information, inspiration and growth. Being sensitive to emotional cues, a company can help employees outgrow unhelpful behaviors.

Practice empathy by being responsive to workers' ideas, needs and feelings, with the aim of arriving at intelligent decisions.

11 Personalize Establish a direct connection between the company's vision and business objectives to the aspirations and prospects of the employees. This alignment enables the worker to locate himself in the order of things and deepens his appreciation of his role. This will instill pride and purpose.

12, Allocate resources, Reinforce implementation by supporting people management strategies with adequate resources. Doing so will send an unmistakable signal that the company is serious in this undertaking

The person-work dichotomy is no longer tenable. People management is directed towards the integration of work as an integral part of the person and vice versa. When a company takes care of its most valued assets, which are its workers, the workers will reciprocally take care of the company. A motivated, high-morale workforce works better. The bottom line will substannate the result.

(The author is a training and communication consultant. E-mail the au-Empathize. Unlike robots, hu-thor at success system I @gmail com.)

'Did my being a mother work against my career advancement?'

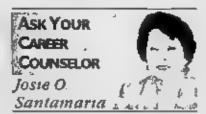
I'M SO DESPONDENT ABOUT my career because my being a mother and, perhaps, being a woman, had worked against my career advancement. My boss did not consider me for the position of inational sales manager although I had been sales supervisor of the year for three addition, you feel confused consecutive years. He assumed that my being a mother of four (three kids in school and one three-month-'old baby) would make it difficult for me to handle the Job of national sales manager who needs to travel to different places in the Philippines where our company marriage and family situation, it does business. I feel so demotivated and

demoralized that I want to resign. I've been with my company for nine years and have risen from sales rep to sales supervisor, a position I've held for five years. I'm now 41 years old.

My career goal, which my husband approves of, is to go up to the highest level possible in sales management. My 73-year-old mother, who lives with us, is healthy and she looks after our kids. I can always get a competent "yaya" and a househelp to help my mother. Besides, my husband is an accountant and observes regular office hours. So you see, I can be mobile and do what I need to do. I see no future for me now in my chosen career while my boss is my boss. I don't know if his ·boss, who is also a male, 'has also gender bias. What should I do?

Ma Career Stuck

You have clearly identified your (eelings about your situation, in



whether to stick it out in your company where you now find your career derailed because of your perception that being a mother of four children was the impediment to your promotion, or to resign which you are hesitant to do

Mobility

From the way you describe your seems that your mobility will not be a problem and that you can fill the requirements and face the challenges of the position of national sales manager. However, of these, you are mobile and avai-

being a mother of four, was indeed the reason why you had not been considered to the sales management position, I suggest that you go directly to your boss and ask

him the following questions:

reasons) why I didn't get it?

 If not, can you please tell me the reason (or reasons) why not? In what areas should I im-

prove to increase my chances for promotion next time a vacancy You can be upfront with him by

telling him your marriage and family situation, that you have your husband's blessing to pursue a sales management career; that you have your mother staying full time with your children. Because



instead of second guessing if your lable to travel to different places where your company has busi-

However, he may not be upfront with you by telling you the risks of having a woman in a sales management position: being ex-· Am I qualified for the posi- posed to physical hazards in travel to some areas where men are . If so, what was the reason (or more fit to be in, that women are subject to molestation and to sexual harassment, and the like. Maternity leave makes a woman unproductive, a matter that employers will not admit.

Emotional well-being

It is obvious from the way you write, that pursuing your career goal is more important to you than having quality time with your children. The absence of a mother from the home during the formative years of a child's life always has an effect on the emotional well-being of this child.

The need to be physically present at home when children experience certain "crises" in childhood and adolescence, such as failures and rejection, when they find the need to turn to a mother for support and nurruring, cannot be filled by their father or "lola." It is only when these children of absent parents show behavior problems in school that parents wake up and do remedial measures that might be too late.

And, oh yes! I also suggest that you ask your mother if she is willing to be full-time stay-at-home "mother surrogate," especially since having a competent "yaya" and househelp may not be that easy to get. If she is willing, I suggest you give her a regular compensation which you insist she gets. God bless you.

(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems, inc., a management, organization and human resource development company, feedback at josantamaria@careersystems.com.ph.)

Gospel. Luke 16:10-13

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.

Small matters matter

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A SECRETARY I KNEW, LOST HIS JOB FOR THE AMOUNT of P10, which he used to take secretly from the weekly collections of a parish church. He thought that such small amount of money which he regularly pocketed for months would not be noticed by the pastor, and would not cost him much-the daily food and sustenance of his family for quite a while he was jobless. His dishonesty in very small matters, as Jesus warns in the selected Gospel verse, brought him to a greater mess in his life and that of his family members. There is indeed wisdom in the words of Jesus which give importance to even small matters. In fact, "a journey of a thousand miles starts with a step," as a saying goes

The small matters in the workplace like punctuality in work, presence of mind or focus in one's task, keeping order and cleanliness in the work station, attention to details and routine of the operation, and so on, could sometimes become a great burden or cause boredom for the worker. Observing and keeping the minute details of the work could be so monotonous that it could dull one's sense of discernment regarding the really important things in life and work. The ordinary routine of the work could make the worker forget that after all, great achievements are made up of small accomplishments.

The worker therefore needs to be alert to the little things in his work and understand that, as Jesus teaches, his faithfulness in these small matters could contribute to greater success in his profession or trade and could moreover, gain for him ments which Jesus would surely compensate with abundant blessings in His kingdom. (E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)



REFLECTIONS FOR THE **WORKING SOUL**



You can bet on it

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

teresa de manila@yahoo.com)

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED TO JEFFREY, 45, CHIEF ACcountant, married, with three children. No one doubted his honesty, and he demanded honesty of his staff, too. Three years ago he had a fling with 23-year-old Leila, a newbie in the purchasing department. Covert firstatious gestures began almost as soon as the two met. Young and pretty, Leila naturally attracted male attention, but she herself had her eyes on Jeffrey, good-looking, competent, supremely self-confident and generous with compluments.

Soon they started having "working lunches" together, often lugging along work-related records and documents to discuss over meals. Then, their officemates' suspicion was proven true when she'd always be nauseous and drowsy at work around 11 a.m. She was pregnant. As she'd confide to a close friend later, Jeffrey wanted abortion or he would deny the baby was his. The scandal scarred Jeffrey's marriage-his wife's trust could not be restored and worse, his friends now talk that she's having flings of her own. Leila resigned due to the scandal, entered a home for unwed mothers and then gave the baby up for adoption. Now she looks terribly older than her age, fiercely haunted by one question in her mind:

did she do right in giving up her baby?

Dishonesty is not limited to money matters. The first filetatious eye contact between the honest accountant Jeffrey and the innocent newcomer Lella was "small"-so were compliments on each other's looks, or winking when they'd pass each other by. These made up a "small" emotional dishonesty that led to a crisis which demanded greater dishonesty. "The person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones," today's Gospel reminds. You can bet your kidney on it—this is true. (E-mail the author at

Striking a balance in technology

neck speed in technological devetopments, it is quite important to strike a balance, whether at work

This is how Melody Tan dela Cruz, managing director of Premium Logic Computer Co., a provider of information technology products, yiews the local IT industry in general, its business, and its partnership with Acer (Philippines), Inc., a subsidiary of one of the world's top

Computer manufacturers. When Premium Logic opened shop in 1988, computers were still at the high-end of the price chain, computer literacy was a big challenge, so en-

needed to convince people that technology is a good thing to complement their lives. "Add to this is the fact that PCs and peripherals at that time were not user-friendly, so customer support was vital and customers needed a lot of spoon-feeding," explains Dela Cruz.

But because of the convergence of modernization and widespread connectivity, the need for people to be constantly connected with each other spawned a new revolution This revolution saw the emergence of IT products, not just computers but also personal digi-

IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF BREAK- couragement and education were phones, as vital tools to remain connected.

However, this revolution presented a downside, says Dela Cruz, particularly for a company like Premium Logic. There were too many players, each one wooing the same set of consumers. and this brought about stiff competition resorting to price wars, hard selling, and other gueralla tactics, which is basically the

recipe for a consumer's market." And this is where, she said, the partnership with Acer comes in. She cited the alliance with Acer as a big boost to Premium Logic in tal assistants or PDAs and mobile terms of branding, support and

growth. "Our relationship with them is really healthy. Their markenng efforts and their continuous study and understanding of local IT industry trends go a long way in boosting our business targets and helps us cope with the demand," says dela Cruz.

She said the brand is backed by solid product support. She adds that the firm also knows how to strike a balance in the fast-paced IT business.

"They know we also need a break once in a while ... I love the incentive trips abroad. It motivates us to work even harder to reach our goals," she continued.

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IBM opens new business services recruitment hub in Eastwood

tecruitment hub

BUSINESS IBM. Services (IBS) recently welcomed job seekers to its new Recruitment Hub Situated at the Ground Floor of IBM Plaza in Eastwood City, the Hub has a testing area and interview rooms to accommodate applicants who are keen to be part of the company's hyper growth.

"We wanted a tocation that would take advantage of the high foot traffic in the area," says Joan Laquindanum, IBS Recruitment Manager, "We carrently have more than 1,800 employees in the center and we will continue to expand due to the hypergrowth pace of the busmess."

IBS is one of the four subsidiaries of IBM in the Philippines. It provides best in-class Hu man Resources and Finance and Accounting Services to large multinational organizations wor dwide and is currently the number 1 HR Delivery Center in the region.

More than fifty percent of IBS' requirements are for fresh graduates to take on HR and Finance & Accounting roles. It is also hiring experienced call center professionals who will provide contact center support for the employees of the companies being serviced by IBS.

The IBS Recruitment Hub is open from Monday to Friday from 9A.M to 6 P.M. Fresh graduates and professionals with less than 18 months work experience are encouraged to walk-in and take the pre-employment examination. Experienced professionals may also walk-in and leave their resumes or email to

ibmhire@ph.ibm.com For more inquiries about the IBS recruitment process and recruitment hub operations cail 9956987 loc.





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- Ensure that the funds are properly accounted for and used in accordance with Bank procedures. Provide training to operational and financial management staff and borrowers in the region.
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disbursement policies and procedures and recommending corrective actions.

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Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than October 5, 2007. Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

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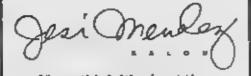
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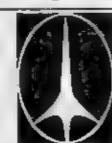
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A PART OUR DEVINOR OF THE Must be froensed EE / ME:

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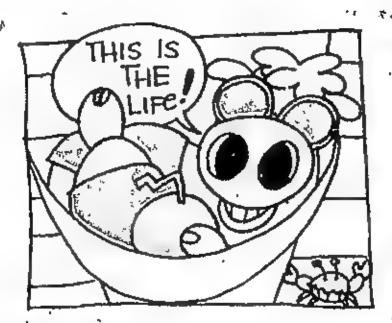
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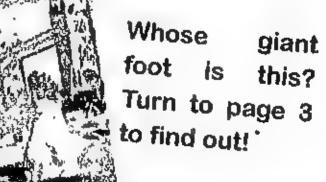
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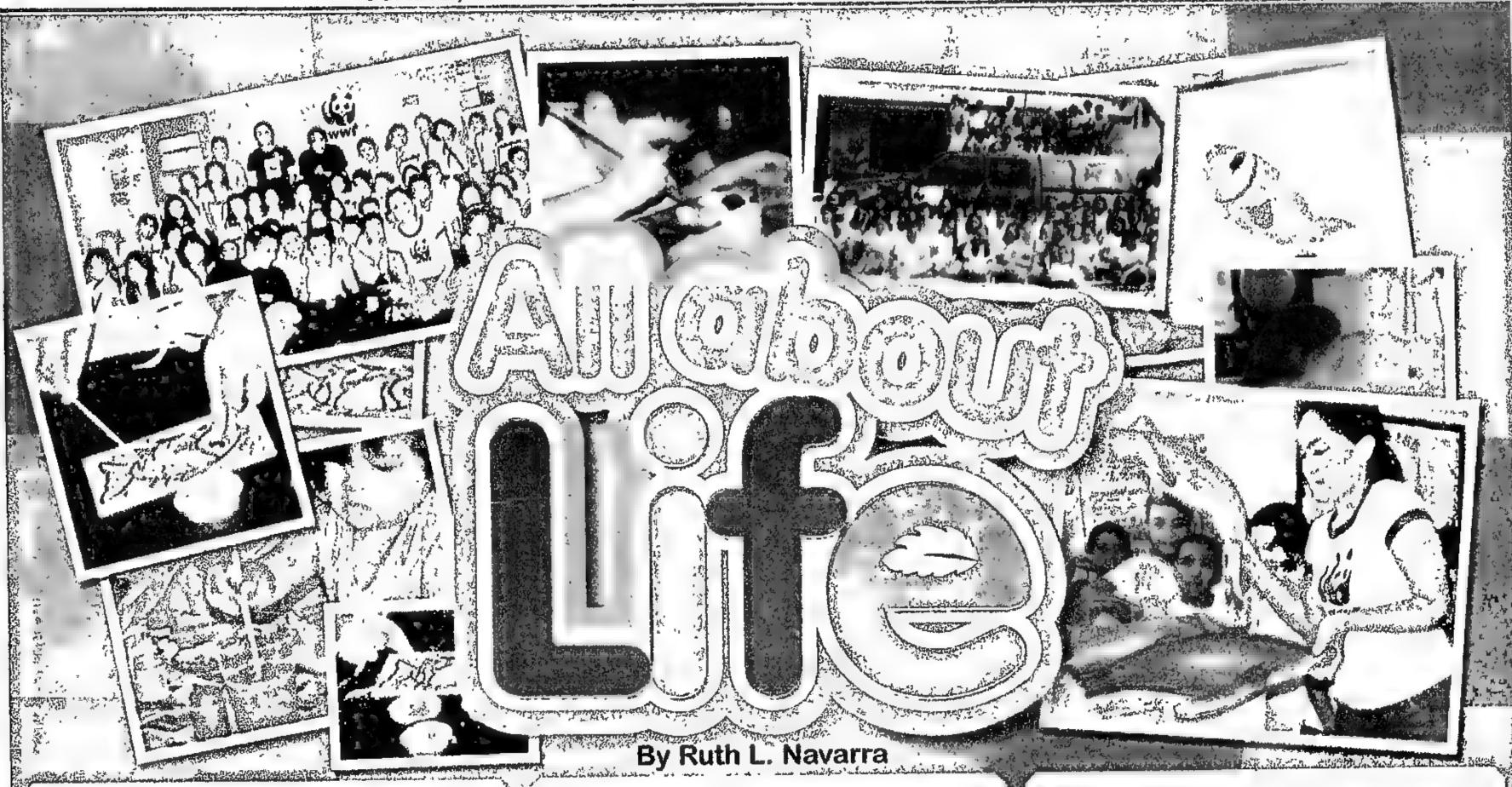
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Junior

WHAT'S INSIDE:





IFE COULD MEAN DIFFERENT things for different people.

For World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an environmental Life organization, educating kids about how to take care of our environment.

Eight years ago, WWF launched Project Learning Interdependently for the Environment (Life). Volunteers go to coastal communities and majorcities of our country to raise awareness among kids on how to protect our natural resources.

But instead of boring lectures, they make use of posters, scale models, puppet shows, slideshow presentations and videos.

For WWF environment education officer Obel Resurreccion, the challenge is to constantly come up with something interesting. Charles of the second of the second of the second

municipalities. I attended about the all more and distributions in the distributions of the state of the stat

"I come up with songs and games that explain marine life to the kids," she says. "I always have to find a way to grab their attention." She also teaches them crafts like sculpting clay animals and origami.

different have Different places environmental concerns. In Bataan, she taught kids a song about sea turtles and their life cycle. In Tawi-Tawi, she focused on solid waste and sanitation. In the city, she would give lectures on global warming and climate change.

The kids are also given workbooks full of games and activities that they can do on their own.

"Sometimes, when return to the community, would see kids calling out to me. and proudly showing me (that) they still remember the songs that they learned," she says, 😽

Teacher Obel adds that the best thing about Project Life is the change in the community. Kids would go home and tell their parents what they learned. The parents, in effect, would be spurred into acting to protect their resources.

"After Project Life, some communities would do beach clean-ups and refrain from eating the eggs of sea turtles," she says. "We impart the message that they can do something about it and that they must. Their future and the future of their children are in their hands."

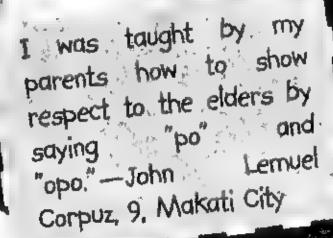
To date, Project Life has visited more than 100,000 children in 900 schools all over the country including provinces like Bataan, Batangas, Bohol, Cebu, Davao, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Northern Cagayan, Olongapo, Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Pangasinan, Subic Bay, Tawi-Tawi and Zambales.

help, To know how you can visit www.wwf.org.ph or call 920-7923.

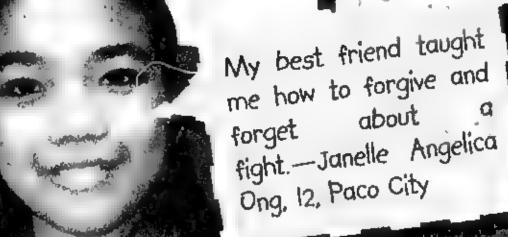


What's the coolest thing you've learned?

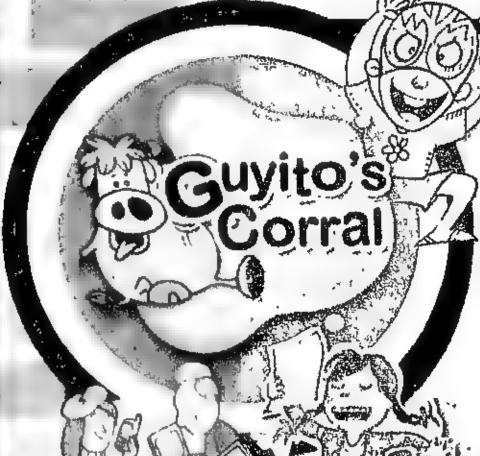
How the universe was created!—Ma. Franchescha Margaret Cruz, 11, Paco City



My dad taught me how
to play the yoyo. I can
now do "walk the dog"
and "around the
world".—Franco
Tristan Estacio IV, 9,
Makati City



Finding out how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly — Aldous John Deogracias, 9, Makati City



WELCOME, TO) MY/CORRAL

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Send all contributions to fi@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

A President's home

by Juliene F. Concepcion 9 years old, Castillejos, Zambaies

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A PRESIDENT'S HOME? ONE afternoon last June, my sister and I had the opportunity to visit the ancestral house of President Ramon Magsaysay.

I saw many things in his house. At the entrance, there was a newly installed bust of the former President. It was made to commemorate his 50th death anniversary last March 17, 2007.

I also saw lots of pictures. There were pictures of President Magsaysay when he was just a small boy, and when he was campaigning for the presidency in 1953.

There were also furniture, clothes, wooden canes, sunglasses and medals. Also on display was a gown worn by his wife during the presidential inauguration. The gown was very pretty.

Aside from seeing things that he owned, I learned many things about Magsaysay. For instance, I found out that Magsaysay was the first Filipino President to wear a Barong Tagalog during his inauguration. From an old news article on display, I read that once, he acted like a traffic aide during a traffic jam. When he was caught driving without a license, he was penalized just like an ordinary citizen.

After spending less than an hour in the ancestral house, I learned that the Man of the Masses who came from Castillejos, Zambales was truly a humble man.

TRANSPORT



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2005 Bast Children's Newspanet
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Wassup World?

Med Shedin JERUS ANEN

Why me?

POOR chicken! Not only is she being swung over this girl's head, but according to Jewish beliefs, the ritual is supposed to transfer the sins of the past year to the chicken. The ritual is performed before the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

AFP



When the sea is green...

Condon, US

...it's either full of seaweed, or it's actually grass. A large statue of a man swimming through the grass on the South Bank of the River Thames was unveiled on Sept. 18. This fixture near Tower Bridge was commissioned by The Discovery Channel to promote its newest reality show, "London Ink".

Ampliano GHINA

Sky lights

THESE children made their own moons! They took part in a lantern design competition to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival. During this traditional event, Chinese families get together to watch the full moon and hold colorful lanterns. No wonder these kids' faces are all lit up, just like a full moon.

AFP

Mindence PHUPPINES

Small wonder

MEET the Mindanao flying squirrel! This fist-sized rodent, which can be found only in Mindanao, is just about four inches long. Since it's so small, it's not on any predator's menu. Ah, it's terrific to be tiny! Dennis Jay Santos/Inquirer Mindanao,



Mountain Provinces

Stylish *** passengers

YOUNG men clad in traditional wear ride out of the Mountain Province municipal center on Bontoc's 99th foundation day. This Cordillera community encourages new generations to honor their past in the face of modern lifestyles.

EV Espiritu/
Inquirer Northern Luzon

333



the contract of the contract o

Booker RAD A break in fasting

AT THE ABDUL Khader al-Kilani mosque, Iraqi children line up for food which the mosque provides to poor families during Ramadan. Ramadan is a time when Muslims fast during daylight hours, but due to security reasons, the donated food was distributed during the day.

AP

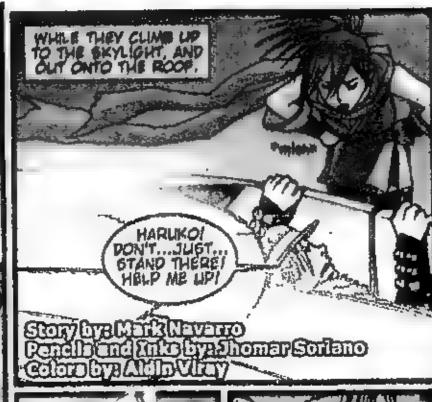
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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES



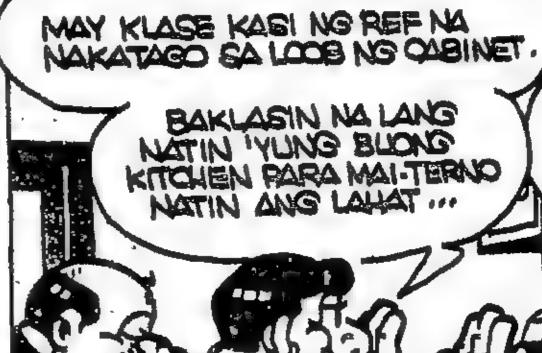


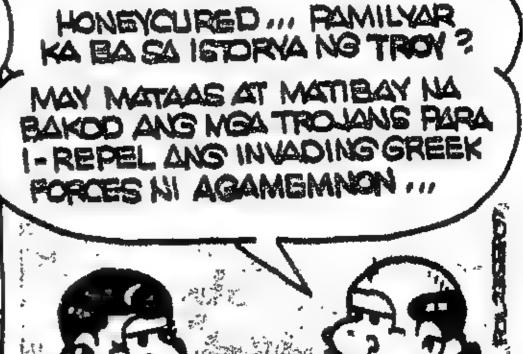


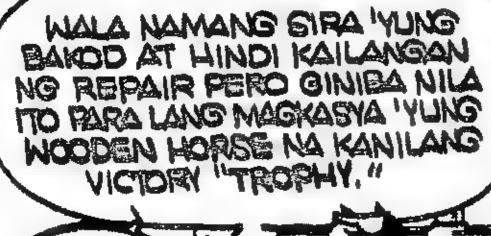
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.











ALAM MO BA ANG NANGYARI SA TROY PAGKATAROS NO'N ?



Parakis Sa Ibang Si Heren Sinwawa



HANAP CONTRACTOR

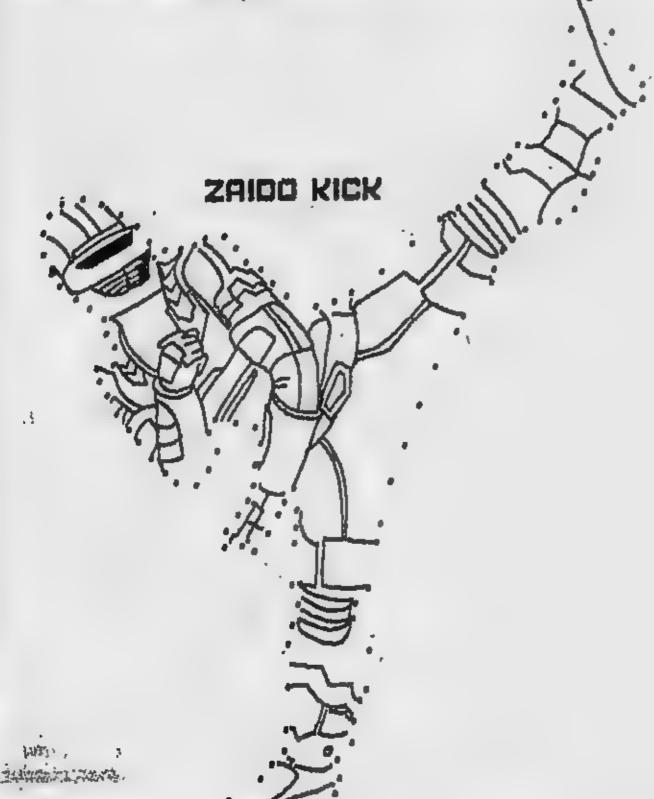


MACING SUSUNOD NA ZAIDO, PULIS PANCKALAWAKAN!

كالاللاء تاكالات

1. Connect the dots hebang suct ang ZAIDO MASK mula sa page 8.

2. Gawin ang ZAIDO MOUES!













ISA KA NANC CANAP MA ZAKO!

IPACTATANCCOL ANG SANDAIGDICAN SIMULA BUKAS NG GABI SA GMA Telebabad



ZITS

\$,

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN









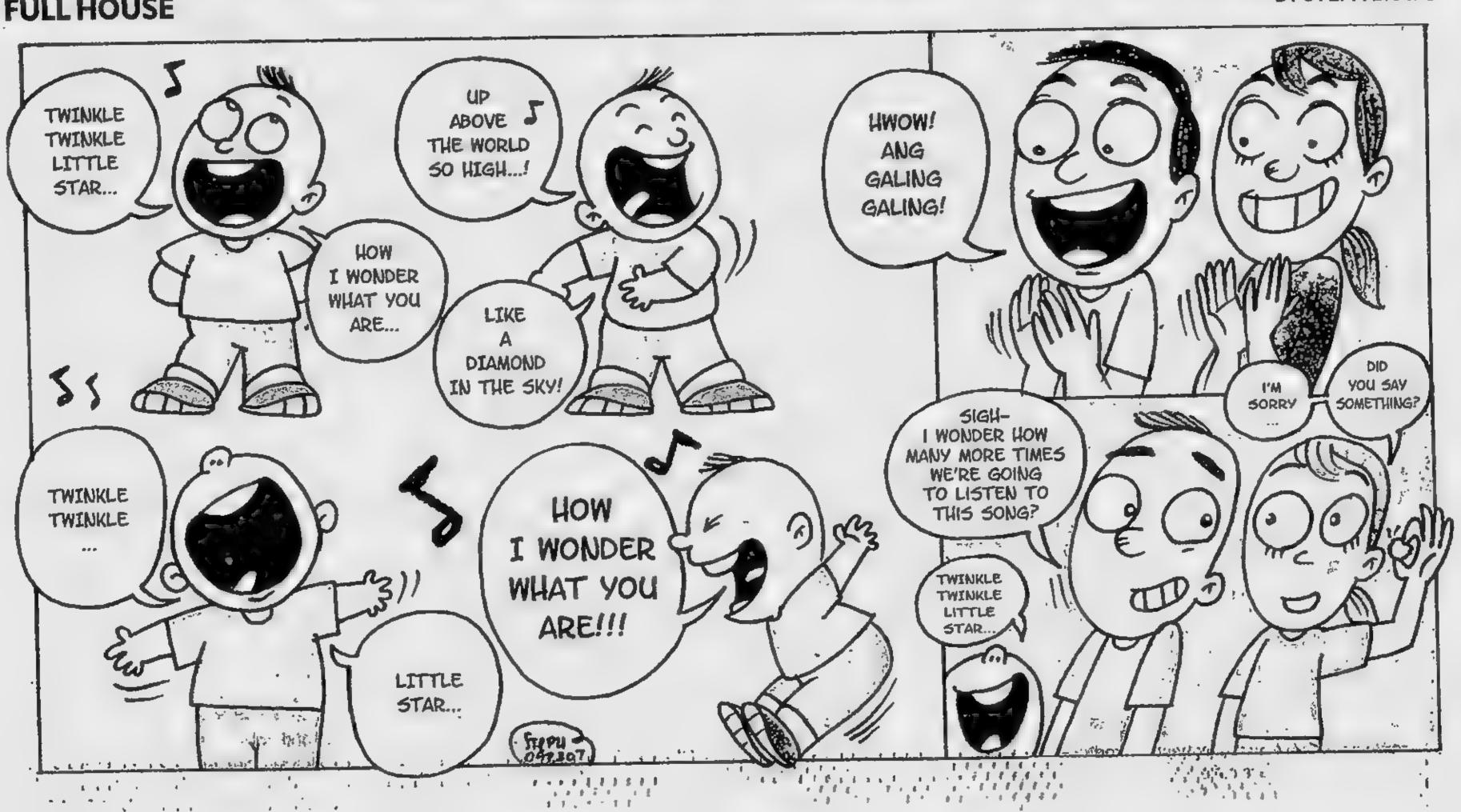






FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



SUNDAY, A 3007

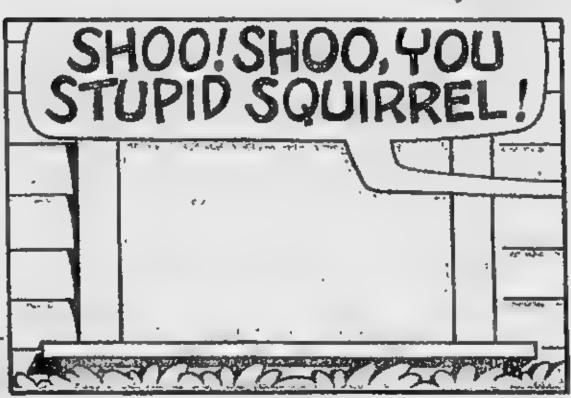
INQUIRER COMESULVAL 97

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS













Zaido, the champions of everything good in the Universe

"Ako ang alagad ng kabutihan. Ako ang bantay ng kalayaan. Ako ang Pulis Pangkalawakan. (I am the force of good. I am the guardian of freedom. I am the Space Police)."

On Sept. 24, join the millions who will utter this oath along with the heroes of "Zaido: Pulis Pangkalawakan", the newest "fanta-serye" program of Kapuso Network GMA 7.

The "Zaido" story traces its roots from the heroics of the warrior Shaider who vanquished the cruel and tyrannical Lear, ruler of Kuuma. With Shaider's victory, peace had been restored across the Universe. And with the help of the Galactic Force, special elite guardians who patrol the Universe, peace had been maintained even after Shaider's passing.

But the threat returns. The Galactic Force learns that Le-ar has returned, and the disgraced ruler has one thing on his mind: take back absolute power at all cost.

"Zaido: Pulis Pangkalawakan" begins with the new generation of heroic warriors who are dedicated to follow Shaider's lifelong ideal of upholding peace and justice in the Universe.

These new-generation warriors are members of the Pulis Pangkalawakan (Space Police), and the highest-ranked of these warriors are called Zaido, who represent the best of the Pulis

Pangkalawakan.

Trained under the fatherly Commander Zion (lan de Leon) of the Galactic Force Academy, the Galactic Force (GF) leans on the individual strengths of three Zaido: Gallian (Dennis Trillo), the Blue Zaido; Alexis (Marky Cielo), the Green Zaido; and Cervano (Aljur Abrenica), the Red Zaido.

Gallian is the Captain of the Zaido. He is considered the Force's best pilot. Orphaned during Le-ar's rule and taken into the Force's care and training early in his life, Gallian had been the first of the Pulis Pangkalawakan to achieve Zaido status.

Alexis' unrelenting and steadfast pursuit to fight evil is borne out of a traumatic past-he had witnessed his father being murdered. Coming from a poor family, Alexis often finds himself on the receiving end of his peers' social insensitivities. Nevertheless, he has consistently proven himself deserving of the title of Zaido.

Brash, impatient, and spoiled by the excesses of a wealthy family, Cervano has no care in the world but to impress the girls (a goal he often succeeds in). But he soon becomes an integral member of the Zaido, where his physical superiority becomes an immense asset.

Gallian and the rest of the Galactic Force must find other Zaido in the Universe to consolidate their forces to de-

feat Le-ar and his minions.

The sinister Le-ar is not short on lethal allies, as well. Amasonang Kahel (Vaness del Moral), the most agile of all Amazons, is a dead shot with any gun. Amasonang Lila is a deadly foe with her (LJ Reyes) lightning-fast moves combined with her kali. Amasonang Puti (Arci Munos), the so-called "conscience" of the Amazons, may have her loyalty questioned, but her powers are never in doubt. Amasonang Rosas (Melissa Avelino) is the strongest of all Amazons and a martial arts expert. Leading them is Amasonang Itim (Iwa Moto), an expert in all bladed weapons.

Le-ar is served by his unquestioning Kuuma warriors led by Drigo (Jay Manalo). Along with chief advisor and Kuuma high priest Ida (Paolo Ballesteros)-whose unmatched beauty is surpassed only by the rottenness of her soul-Le-ar and his minions will stop at nothing to regain power over the Universe.

Le-ar himself has formidable powers.
He is the only one who can open the
Time Space Warp to strengthen the Kuuma warriors.

Adding color to the battle between good and evil are the affairs of the heart of the warrior heroes. At the center of a romantic struggle is Amy (Kris Bernal), a student at the Academy and love interest of Alexis and Cervano.

And then there is Lyka (Karel Marquez), Commander Zion's daughter and flight instructor and assistant to Gallian.

She secretly harbors feelings for Gallian.

Colorful characters will also spice up the series. Bawaw, a Kuuma beast, brings a camival band. Oggy (Robert Villar) is the youngest sibling of Alexis. Bird-like Ulla is a close ally of the Zaido. Thor (Dion Ignacio) is a troublesome policeman who causes headaches for cousin Alexis. Alvaro (Raymart Santiago) is Aiexis' trouble-making brother who is abducted by unidentified entities. In Alvaro's absence, girlfriend Carmela (Diana Zubiri) sets her sights on Gallian. But Thor won't leave her alone.

Ramiro (Tirso Cruz III) has stood as Alexis' family's guardian ever since the patriarch died. Beneath the kindly exterior, however, there seems to lurk a scheming, sinister motive. Helen (Lorna Tolentino) is Alexis' loving mother who holds a secret about Alvaro. Rounding up the cast is Mona (Lovi Poe), a writer who has a secret love for childhood friend Alexis.

Follow the never-ending battle between good and evil, as our heroes and their villains take the war to the Universel Watch, the heart-pounding action and drama evalery night starting Sept. 24, only at GMA 7.

MACING SUSUNOD NA ZAIDO, PULIS PANCKALAWAKAN!

- idikit ang pahinang ito sa cardboard. Sundan ang dots paikot ng Zhiji sa MESK habang ginugupit ito
- Butasan ang mga mala ng ZElla 🕒 🖫
- MASK Butasan ang magkabilang tanga ng
- Lagyan ng pisi o rubberband ang mga squeet sa magkabilang tenga
- in Paper and ZAIDO MASK
- (Pumunta sa page 5)

ZANDO MASK

IPACTATANGGOL ANG SANDAIGDICAN SIMULA BUKAS NG CABI SA GMA Telebabad

sundayINQL

September 23, 2007,

GENERAL Sansung

Ultimate disc wakeboarding mountain climbing

The property of the second sec

Tooting his own horn

Once named a top police officer for solving two kidnapping cases, this PMAer and cum laude Law graduate can very well trumpet his long list of achievements. Instead, he chooses to play '50s and '60s classics on his free time

What do tough men in tough jobs do on their off hours?

Late night clients of a coffee shop on Morato Street in Quezon City thought the two men who got up to join the pianist on the makeshift stage one evening looked vaguely familiar, but they couldn't say for sure in the dim light. One started strumming the guitar while the other took up the trumpet.

The audience clapped politely after a few songs, but as the trio continued to play deep into the night, mostly songs from the '50s and '60s, their appreciation grew, especially as they soon realized that the two were not regular wind and string performers.

One of them was Arturo Lomibao, who was chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) before he retired last year. The other was Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., the PNP spokesman.

Were they checking out the waters for a possible career-shift? For Pagdilao at least, the performance at the coffee shop was not the first time he had put his musical talent on public display. On his 50th birthday last February, he began the celebration by appearing on stage while playing the drums to Kool and the Gang's "Celebration." He later blared on the trumpet the classic song, "The Nearness of You," one of his favorites.

"If books and knowledge fill up my mind, music is what fills my soul," he explains.

Pagdilao's love of music comes naturally, as he comes from a musically-inclined family. His mother, Anunciacion, a teacher before she became mayor of Pinili, Ilocos Norte, had taken up formal piano lessons.



Soul Patrol: Pegulino nits the home

His younger sister, Joy, a piano teacher in the US, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Music. Several of his brothers play the guitar and have sung in church choirs at one time or another.

His own children are also into music. It was, in fact, his 21-year-old daughter Francesca Rosella who inspired him and eventually taught him to play the drums.

"She took formal lessons in voice and piano and she also plays the drums," Pagdilao recalls. "So I thought, why don't I learn to play them, too?" The police spokesman has been playing the drums for nearly a year now, and continues to hone his skills by listening to songs and practicing with his drum set at home every chance he gets.

A note reader, he taught himself to play the trumpet. "It's actually harder to play than the drums, because you need to have air. You should have strong lungs, something that's difficult to develop. I want to practice more if I have the time," he adds.

But time is a luxury these days because of his day job. A 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Pagdilao was the class "baron" and ranked 20th in the batch. The following year, he attended the Royal Marines Commando course in the United Kingdom, becoming the first Philippine Constabulary officer to complete the tough four-month training for selected

graduates of the world's top military and police schools. He then went on to pursue a degree in law at the University of Sto. Tomas, graduating cum laude in 1987.

A field officer for most of his career, he figured in the news twice in 1999. The first time was when, as Caloocan City police chief, he led the rescue of Filipino-Chinese businessman Robert Uy, from kidnappers. Four of the suspects were killed in a shootout and Pagdilao later returned to Uy the P2 million ransom which had been paid for his release.

Months later, he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines. After several years, this time as Cavite police director, he solved another kidnapping case and rescued the town mayor of Alfonso, Cavite from his abductors.

For his achievements, Pagdilao was promoted thrice, eventually becoming the first in his class to make it as senior superintendent. In 2005, Lomibao, who was about to be promoted PNP chief, asked him to be the organization's spokesman. Pagdilao was then the deputy director for operations at the Central Police District (now known as the Quezon City Police District).

"In all my previous jobs, I did not have to speak to prove my worth. My actions spoke

(continued on page 12)



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Living up to its soaring price tab

The commitment to freshness more than makes up for the sky-high prices at Tsukiji

A TALL man wearing whites greets us with a big smile as we enter the quiet restaurant. "Haro," he says pleasantly, bobbing his head a little. "Hello," we greet back this man who charmingly reminds me of Alfredo Linguini in the movie "Ratatouille," except the guy before me is a smiling, calmer, Asian version without the chef's hat that housed the rat cum chef underneath.

His name is Toshiro Okajima, chef of the restaurant Tsukiji on Pasay Road for 11 years now. Unlike the hapless Linguini, this chef knows his cuisine.

"I'd like some soba, please," I announced with restrained excitement as I sat down. I'd been obsessing over soba noodles for over a week, inspired by my current reading on Japanese cuisine. I have just learned that soba-making is not an easy craft to master, as buckwheat is not as elastic as ordinary wheat, making the 1,000-year old tradition of soba-making a much revered practice.

As with many other Japanese delicacies, the creation of soba follows not only a particular method but a discipline in both the kneading and the cutting of the dough that takes years to master. Few people maintain the practice today, with less than 10% of the 30,000 or so soba houses in Japan still making handmade soba from buckwheat to bowl, so I was more than pleased to learn that at Tsukiji, Chef Okajima actually makes the noodles from scratch, using buckwheat flour flown in from Japan, and kneading the dough himself. Unfortunately, my romanticized

Ocean treat: sashimi



picture of a sobalier (a soba sommelier) with a machete-like knife achieving perfect 1.3 mm noodles in spite of the difficult elasticity of buckwheat faded upon learning that Chef Okajima uses a machine to cut the noodles for efficiency and ease. Nevertheless, the soba, served at this restaurant with a line up of choices to accompany the noodles—scrambled egg, poached egg, shrimp tempura, beef—was quite satisfactory.

After my noodle fix, the explanation of why only monks and samurai were allowed to eat soba in the Edo era still escaped me. But I did find an explanation for the longevity of Tsukiji in spite of the sky-high prices on its menu. The secret is a commitment to freshness that few other establishments in the country have matched. The soba is only one example. Practically everything in the restaurant, down to the wasabi and the salt, is fresh and comes straight from Japan, with chef-owner J Gamboa

sometimes doing the buying himself. "Did you know that in Japan, women are not allowed to hold the fish that will be sold because women have warmer hands and it is believed that this might ruin the fish?" Chef J gives me a few tips on Japanese wet market culture, then proceeds to share how he gets discounts. "These Japanese vendors, a lot of them are married to Filipinas so I just bring Filipino goodies and we end up trading or I get huge discounts because they want the pasalubong for their wives." Talk about Pinoy charm. I remember his words on another visit, as I take in bites of my geoduck (pronounced "goo-i-duck") clam sashimi, which the waitress informs me just arrived from Japan the night before. I must have been in absolute reverie because as I savored the crunchy yet tender texture of the mirugai, and the fresh, delicately saity taste that made me understand why other writers have described it as "a taste of the ocean," my sister snickered

and said, "Naks, feel na feel!" Heh!

But she could not keep me from smiling in quiet appreciation over the giant (it is the largest burrowing clam in the world) and geriatric clam (they grow as old as 150 years). Each bite I took of the magnificent mollusk took me to the sea. It was absolutely refreshing on that hot day. But not everybody likes clams, so while I had a beautiful out-ofbody experience with my P880 aptly-priced sashimi, my sister picked on her tempura. She had ordered an assorted tempura platter that presented three little seafood pieces and the rest were vegetables. "Kalabasa at iba pa (squash and so on). P660." It was her sorry karma, heh-heh. Lesson learned: you don't go to Tsukiji for the tempura. Even assuming the veggies or even the shrimp or prawns came from Japan, the freshness is drowned in oil, not worth the

(continued on page 12)

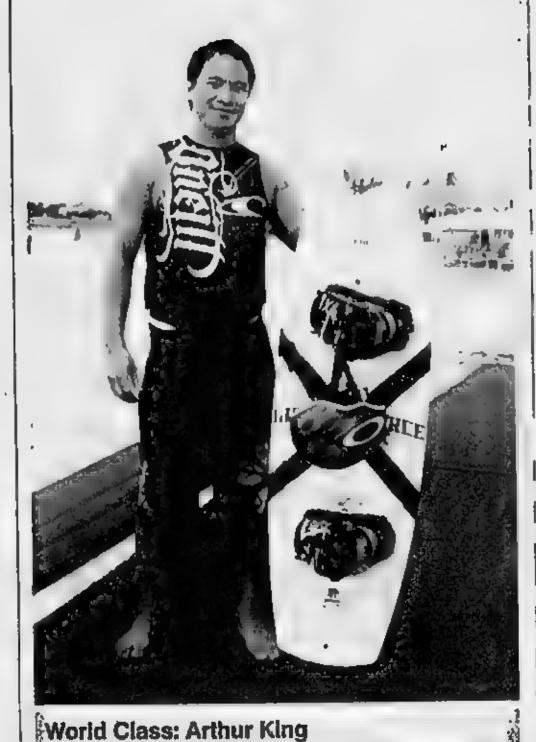
Waking up to Wakeboarding

A combination of surfing, water skiing and snow boarding, this water sport has started to catch the fancy of A-listers and "masa" alike. Easy to learn and at only P120 an hour, including facilities and equipment, what's not to like?

WHEN Reuben Buchanan took on the job to manage a wakeboard cable park in Camarines Sur, the athletic Australian also assumed the responsibility of promoting the sport to the locals. He went as far as tapping unusual talents for the emergent water sport.

"We found some breakdancers in CamSur who I thought would be good to groom as wakeboarding trainers and champions," recalls Buchanan. "Right now they are the best Filipino wakeboarders we have."

Wakeboarding—a combination of surfing, water skiing and snow boarding—recently found a sprawling home at the CamSur



Watersports Complex (CWC) in Pili,

Camarines Sur in the Bicol region.

Tasked to spread the word on this latest water sports craze is 30-year-old Buchanan, a wakeboarder for 11 years, who has returned to the Philippines with half-Filipina wife Sheril to manage the CWC operations.

"We have a lot more training to do with them, but they are really good and are enjoying their job," says Buchanan of the first batch of Filipino trainers and champions at CWC. "They're doing what other young wakeboarders from other countries would pay to do."

Already, the water sport has been drawing the local A-list. "A lot of people visit our wakeboard complex just to hang out and watch the wakeboarders do air tricks and stunts with their friends and family," notes Camarines Sur Governor Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., of the six-hectare site that includes a cable ski system, a beach volley venue, a campsite, a beach area and spa pavilions.

The hip sport already has celebrities like Aga Muhlach, Jericho Rosales and Angel Locsin buckling their vests and strapping their bindings. Other enthusiasts have made the water sport part of their lifestyle, among them athletic couple Arthur and Martha King who have been immersed in wakeboarding even before the CWC opened in 2006.

"I started six years ago," says King, ranked 11th in the world in the wakeboarding Masters category. "I first tried it in the (United) States with my friends. We rented a boat and the wakeboards. After that, I pursued the sport. Luckily there's a cable park in Batangas," he adds.

Continues the 32-year-old hotelier: "I like (wakeboarding) because it's a bodybuilding sport. You get stronger every time. You

(continued on page 14)

All Aboard

Arthur and Martha King share tips on how to get started in this rising water sport.

1. Know the sport. You may fancy yourself a daredevil, but it's always better to know what you're getting into. "Basically, wakeboarding is like surfing except you're pulled by a boat or a cable," says Arthur. "In cable parks, you can do more tricks. There's an obstacle course and ramps."



2. Hook up with family and friends. In wakeboarding, there's no teammate to lift you up on the course. As Martha says: "There's no training, so you're on your own." But it may

be more fun learning the ropes with family and friends. "When I started wakeboarding four years ago, some friends are into the sport so they told me what to do although the

operators of the cable park also teach you the basics."

3. Warm up. Like any sport, a

(continued on page 13)

How to Feel on Top of the World

Regie Pablo reveals why mountain climbing can be a spiritual experience

WHY do people risk life and limb climbing mountains? Because, like Mt. Everest, the mountains are there, and people see it as a challenge to be conquered in a perennial man-versus-nature bout. This, from Regie Pablo who scaled the world's highest mountain on May 17, a day after three Filipino women did.

Such an attitude, he adds, has become the downfall of many mountaineers. "It's like coming from a position of arrogance, when we should regard nature with awe and humility as part of God's creation. We are insignificant compared to them." The death of two members of his expedition only stresses how puny and frail people can be compared to the forces and elements of nature, notes this Globe Telecoms employee who became the seventh Pinoy to achieve the feat.

Pablo, 36, was the lone Filipino in the Asian Trekking International Expedition that organized the ascent on Mt. Everest in May this year. The group included 11 other climbers from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, Japan and Czechoslovakia.

"When I saw Mt. Everest before I started the climb, I addressed it silently and humbly asked its permission," recalls Pablo. "I said, I have come in peace not to challenge you, but to enjoy your summit." Instead of a conquest of nature, he chose to see the experience as a spiritual quest, he adds, a humbling experience that made him realize his mortality and brought him closer to the Creator. And indeed, once he reached the summit through the North Side, Pablo left a rosary in thanksgiving and as a prayer for the safety of future climbers.

Pablo reached the summit exactly a year after Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to reach the Everest peak. Erwin "Pastor" Emata repeated Oracion's feat on May 18, while Romeo Garduce made it one hour after. On May 16 this year, Noelle



(Top) Blinawd out: Pablo with wife
Melissa

(Right) The icoman cometh home:
Pablo with tools of his trade



Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino became the first Filipino women to summit Everest.

Asked why Filipinos made it when others far bigger and stronger had given up, Pablo shrugs: "I guess it's because we're used to trials and difficulties. Sanay tayo sa hirap."

Pablo's passion for mountain climbing started when he began working for a mining company and was exposed to the mine sites in Benguet, Dipogon and Zambales. It was then that he saw the destruction of the country's mountains and vowed to do something about it, recalls this industrial engineering graduate.

Aside from Divine Guidance, Pablo credits Globe Telecoms -- which allowed him to go on extended leave with pay to pursue his dream — and family support behind his success. Married just last December to fellow Globe Adventure Club member Melissa, he recalls a time on the mountain when he thought he'd never see her again. "I already wrote her a farewell letter and left it with one of the sherpas," he says of the scariest moment in his climb.

"No, he can't die on me," quips Melissa.

"We still have plans to build a family." And that, definitely, is Pablo's next Everest. •

PAC

MOUNTAINEERING is a serious sport.
Anyone who plans to indulge in this activity must understand that they'd be exposed to the forces of nature and that there are inherent risks involved. The following tips should ensure that their climb will be a safe and enjoyable experience:

organization. The Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (MFPI) and its member clubs conduct regular Basic Mountaineering Courses (BMC). We cannot replace the value of experience. The only way to acquire this is by joining groups that have extensive knowledge, networks and high standards in climbing ethics gained from years of experience. If you're interested in joining MFPI, you can contact Mr. Mhar Melendres at 09175259798.

2) Where to go? For novices, it's always advisable to explore areas just a few hours from civilization, preferably within the range of two hours' travel time. In case of emergencies, search and rescue operations can easily be facilitated. Start with overnight hikes with manageable trail conditions.

As you gain experience, you can increase the level of difficulty or remoteness of the mountain you're climbing.

The internet provides a reliable source of information on where to go. But bear in mind that travel stories and itineraries posted on websites would not quite be the same as yours. Treat them only as references.

3) What to buy? Mountaineering gear and equipment can be pricey but it is advisable treat them as an investment. Newbies should avoid buying high-end equipment that tend to be too costly as it's not unusual for first timers to give up on their first encounter of the outdoors. As much as possible, borrow usable equipment from reliable sources. Backpacks, stoves, tents, cook sets and even shoes can be lent by a friend. Do not borrow climbing equipment like ropes and hardware (carabineers, pitons, etc), as they are safety equipment and are subject to wear and tear. If you are not sure where and how they have been used and handled, don't use them as they could cost you your life. There are some local outfits that rent out equipment but beprudent in selecting products that you would want to rent.

A lot of local and foreign brands offer

Climb every mountain, but stay safe



Mt. Everest: Man versus nature

quality products, among them Habagat, Sandugo, Conquer, Trek, Bombproof, Montanara, Camp-O, The North Face, Columbia, Coleman, etc. Some climbing gyms also sell limited outdoor products. You can also buy equipment online and from enterprising individuals who source outdoor apparel from export overruns or even the popular used-garments shops (read: ukay-ukay). If you're not too particular about the previous owners of these apparel, they can turn out to be a cheaper alternative.

When climbing, bring only the equipment you would need. A few pounds off your carrying weight can spell the difference between an enjoyable weekend and a horrible experience.

4) Climb safely. Take note of the local weather forecast. Since our mountains are the tropical type, it is common to pass by river systems that tend to get swollen during heavy downpours, posing great danger to safety. Climbers may be exposed to hypothermia during very cold weather compounded by rain showers. Make sure you have jackets and dry clothes, properly encased in water-resistant packaging.

Take along a first aid kit and personal medications including insect repellants. Ensure that you have radios or mobile phones for emergencies.

Leave your itinerary with someone who's not joining your trip so they can check your whereabouts anytime. In case of emergencies, this will guide them in organizing and mobilizing rescue operations. Keep a list of important numbers you might need in cases of emergency.

Never climb alone. A climbing party of three is the minimum, as large groups create a high impact on the mountain.

Observe limits of acceptable change and be conscious of the carrying capacity of the mountain.

5) Be physically prepared.

Mountaineering is a demanding activity. The whole safety of the climbing party may depend on the strength, or the weakness, of one member. Simple exercises like climbing stairs, riding stationary bikes or running are good workouts for those who plan to venture into the outdoors. Fitness centers and gyms also provide an atmosphere conducive to training. They have workout equipment and trainers who can provide helpful advice.

More importantly, maintain a healthy lifestyle. Observe good sleeping habits. Be conscious of your diet. Give up or minimize smoking.

6) Practice responsible mountaineering by adhering to the Leave No Trace Principles, simple guidelines which, when followed, ensure an enjoyable experience that has a low impact on the environment.

The LNT Principles are as follows:

- 1) Plan ahead and prepare.
- 2) Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- 3) Dispose of waste properly.
- 4) Leave what you find.
- 5) Minimize or don't build campfires at all
- 6) Respect wildlife.
- 7) Be considerate of other visitors.
- 8) Observe the mountaineers' credo: Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints, keep nothing but memories. Embrace this passionately.
- 9) And finally, think of the future. We are losing our forests at a rate so fast that the next generation may not be able to enjoy the view, the cool breeze and clear waters that have made our sport meaningful and fulfilling. Protect our mountains; plant a tree.*

Free-for-All

The best things in life are free. If you have the time, we have the juice.



Walking tall: The FEU campus

Dylan Gozum

1. Old Manila Walks' Art Deco Tour

Time travel to the roaring '20s and explore Manila's rich Art Deco heritage. From the hallowed halls of the fabulous Far Eastern University campus to Malate's secret moderne interiors, it's all about the age of speed, jazz, boogie-woogie and the American colonial experiment in the Philippines as you join urban explorer extraordinaire Ivan Man Dy of Old Manila Walks.

Monthly. Log on to www.oldmanilawalks.com for schedules, or e-mail: oldmanilawalks@gmail.com for details.

2. Gantimpala Theater/ Concert at the Park's award-winning plays

Celebrate Gantimpala's 30th anniversary with its Pearl Theater Festival, featuring previous winners of the annual CCP Playwriting Contest. At the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, 7 p.m. "Bombita", written by Tony Perez, is scheduled on September 23. A black comedy on blind obedience among young rookies in the military. Directed by Soxie Topacio.

On September 30, watch Leoncio Deriada's "Taluktok," a coming-of-age tale about five graduating high school students and their climb to the peak of Mt. Apo. This is specially dedicated to Caloy Abrera, who performed in the original production as the retreat master. Directed by Gantimpala Theater Foundation's artistic director Tony Espejo.

For more information, log on to www.nationalparks.ph for schedules of similar free shows at Paco Park and Concert at the (Rizal) Park.

3. National Book Month at the Ortigas Foundation Library

Beef up your Filipiniana, history and current affairs titles through a Mini Book Fair on October 18, 19 and 20. On October 18, 6 pm, enrich your knowledge of Philippine Fiction in English with a lecture by Dr. Gemino H. Abad. On October 19, 6 p.m. join the UMPIL writers in "An Evening of Poems," a poetry reading session featuring Unyon ng mga Manunulat Sa Pilipinas poets Krip Yuson, Marne Kilates, Jose Wendell Capili, Rebecca Añonuevo, Fidel Rillo, Roberto Añonuevo, Michael Coroza, V.E. Carmelo Nadera, Jr. and Abdon Balde, Jr.

It's the kids' turn on October 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. with "Ikwento Mo!" a storytelling session for kids aged 6 to 12 by Adarna House.

The Ortigas Foundation Library is located at the 2/F Ortigas Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

For details, please call 631-1231 loc 222, e-mail maticat@ortigas.com.ph or visit www.ortigasfoundationlibrary.com.ph

4. Retail therapy at the ANP's 22nd Trade Fair

Some 22 years after the price of Negros sugar hit rock bottom at the world market, the señoras and hacienderas are still at it— teaching the womenfolk of suddenly destitute haciendas how to make handicraft, pastries, baskets, pottery and assorted products that would sweeten life again.

From the handful of workers, there are now 80,000 subcontractors and community workers turning up the beautiful concepts of the 94 entrepreneurs who make up the Association of Negros Producers. Let their undaunted spirit inspire you as you browse through their offerings: food, fashion accessories, furniture and housewares, at the Rockwell Tent, Power Plant Mall in Makati, from October 3 to 8. The shopping's not free, but the surfeit of good feeling is.•



Free your mind: Concert at the Park



The shy girl shinest Andi holding the F300

Good Girl Makes Good

OR someone who wakes up at four in the morning, every morning, Andi Manzano looks incredibly fresh-faced and even younger than her 20 years as she works the soundboard on Magic 89.9 FM's morning show.

But then, Maria Andrea Krishna Martin Manzano belongs to a new breed: the modern multi-tasking multimedia girl.

Consider this: Every weekday morning from 6 to 9, she's Andi-9, the bubbly cohost of "Good Times with Mo," steered by veteran DJ Mo Twister (hence the 4 a.m. daily wake-up call).

Switch to a different medium and she's VJ Andi of MTV Philippines, certainly the youngest-looking of the current crop of six new VJs selected in a grueling reality TV-type VJ hunt.

Then totally out of left field, she's also the courtside reporter for the FEU team in this year's UAAP Season.

Hers is also a familiar face on TV and in print, being a sought-after commercial and image model, with several ads and magazine covers under her belt.

And to top it all, she's still in school, somehow managing to squeeze in the final semesters of her Communication Arts course in Miriam College into her packed schedule.

Is there anything this girl can't do?

"To be perfectly honest, I'm not used to it yet," she confesses. We are sitting on the floor of one of the radio station's booths after her show.

Scrubbed clean of any trace of make-up, dressed down in an Adidas tracksuit, the petite (5'3", 105 lbs.) Andi Manzano comes across as perfectly at home in herself and her life on the air, or on camera.

"I'm really new in the industry, but I can actually appreciate the artistas now because now I realize how much work they

(continued on page 13)

student Andi Manzano doing in the edgy, racy world of VJs? Reminding us of the good things still out there, that's what

reporter and full-time CommArts

So what's squeaky-clean

commercial model, courtside

Disc Drive

Ultimate Frisbee is more than just a game of throw and catch, says F Francisco, who reckons that the game's fast-paced demands will soon have Pinoys flipping over it

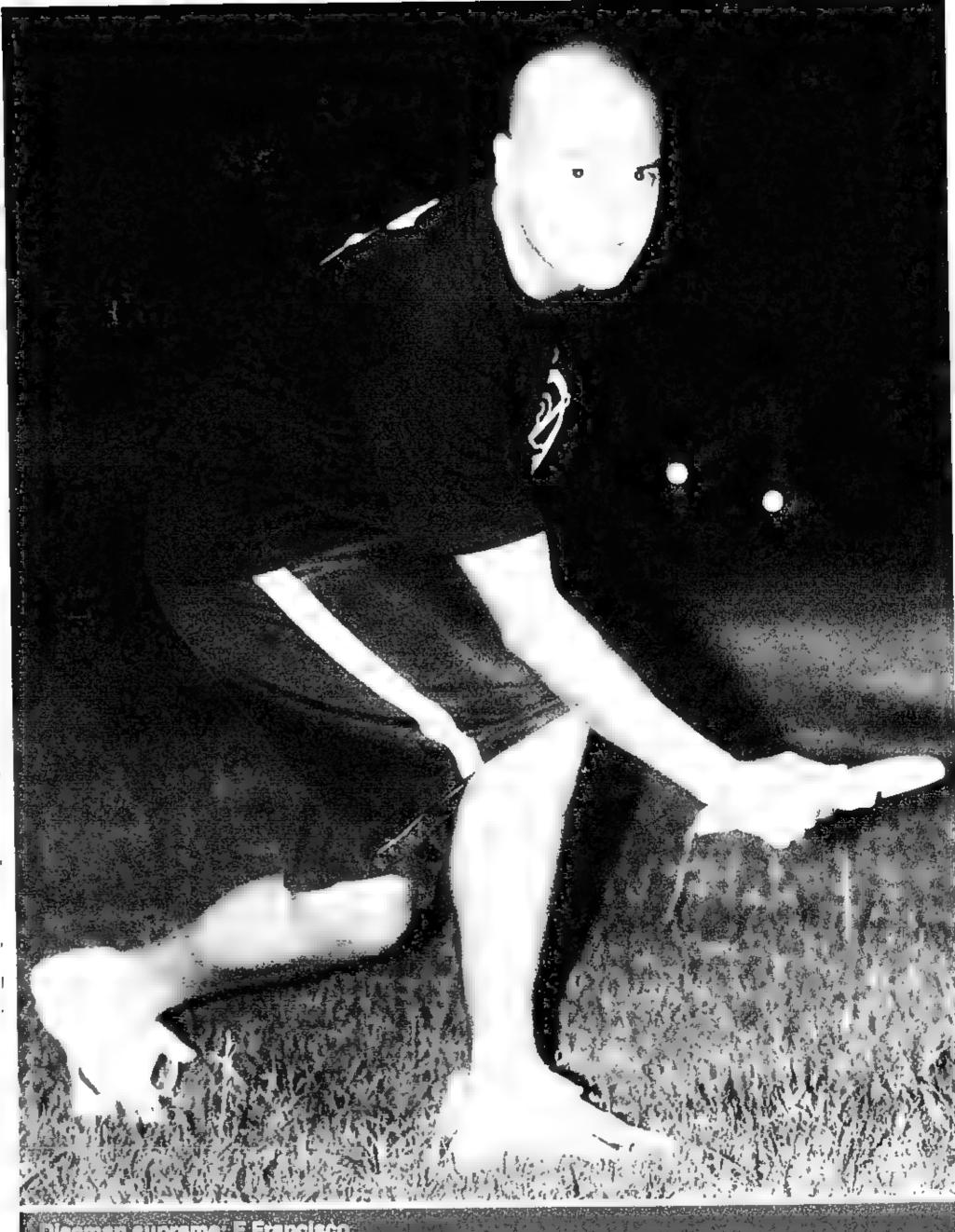
REDERICK Francisco knew it immediately. The moment he gripped the smooth, plastic disc for the first time and hurled it through the air, he was hooked. Known to friends simply as "F," Francisco had accepted a friend's invitation to the Ultimate Frisbee beginner's night at the San Lorenzo Village park. It proved to be the ultimate discovery.

After all, just how fast, how demanding does a sport have to be to earn the qualifier "Ultimate"? Very fast and very demanding apparently, and that's why the sport has been properly dubbed simply as "Ultimate."

The 34-year-old Francisco, who is managing director of his family-owned credit and financing company, is by no means the prototypical athlete. He recalls being sickly as a kid. "I had asthma so the family doctor encouraged my parents to get me into sports." Actually, he got into a lot of sports: swimming, karate, tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, football, golf and badminton. Then Ultimate came spinning into his life.

The sport clicked with him, and he thinks it will with others as well. "Filipinos will enjoy Ultimate Frisbee because it's fast-paced, dynamic and fun," he enthuses. "It's also a sport that you can play with everyone, including your friends, family, even your parents," he says. "It can be very competitive but also fun and wacky at the same time. It has something to offer everyone—from the serious athlete to the weekend warrior."

Francisco, who holds a political science degree from the University of the Philippines and a law degree from the



Discman supreme: F Francisco

Philippine Law School, would soon link up with the Philippine Ultimate Association, the sport's governing body in the Philippines. "In the past, Ultimate was played mainly by a group of expats and their local friends mainly to stay in shape and to socialize," explains this PUA president. "They started inviting more people to join the pick up games until they had enough to start their own league."

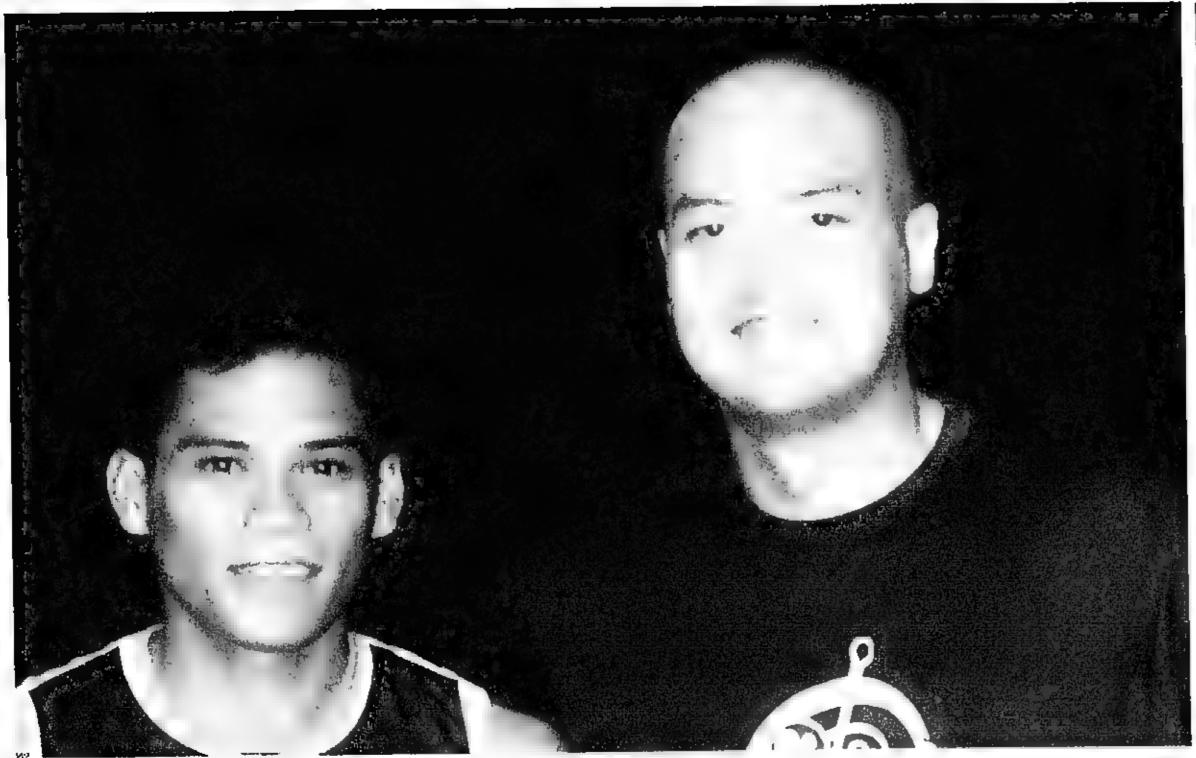
Indeed, on any given weekend, one can witness able-bodied Pinoys leaping into the air, awaiting the perfectly thrown disc. A diverse following is engaged in the sport, Francisco notes, with Filipino players ranging in age from 12 to 50. "We have just about everyone—from former national and professional athletes to people who have

no prior sporting experience," he says.

Invented by a group of New Jersey teenagers in 1968, Ultimate is a non-contact sport built around the idea of throwing and catching what is properly called a "flying disc." The discs are popularly known as Frisbees, but "Frisbee" is actually a trademark of the product (now owned by Mattel) that began life in 1871 as pie tins from the Connecticut-based Frisbie Pie Company.

Now a popular game worldwide, the sport has its own dynamic and devotees.

Ultimate has been gaining a mainstream following in the last few years, with the PUA staging tournaments as well as encouraging the establishment of school



Ultimate Parriors

Francisco With Pancy
delos Santos ((eft) the
best Pincy player

clubs. Over 400 players in Metro Manila participate in leagues under the PUA. "We also have growing Ultimate communities in Boracay, Davao, Iloilo, Iligan, Cebu, Dumaguete and Laguna, which we hope to incorporate into the PUA's official membership before the year ends," he adds. The crown jewel of the local scene is the yearly Philippine Ultimate Club Championships, while leagues and tournaments are staged year-round.

Francisco has big plans for the years ahead. Aside from spreading Ultimate nationwide, he wants to integrate Ultimate into the schools' Physical Education curriculum. "We've also been able to establish a national youth training program for players 24 years and under," he says, adding that his goal is "to strengthen the foundation of Ultimate in the country to ensure that the sport doesn't end up as just a fad, but for it to be considered someday as a full-fledged competitive sport."

That competitive side is honed through endless practice. Most clubs hold practices once to thrice a week, though Francisco notes that if you really want to get serious about Ultimate, practicing five times a week will build the proper stamina. The PUA stages two major international tournaments every year: the Manila Spirits Asian Ultimate Tournament in November and the Boracay Open Asian Beach Ultimate Championships in the summer.

All that makes sense because Francisco believes that the possibilities for Ultimate in

the Philippines are endless, because Filipinos are perfectly suited to play the sport. "It plays to the strengths of the Filipino athlete, which is grit, speed and athleticism. Unlike basketball where height is might, in Ultimate, a player's height may be negated if he's slow." He points out that Ultimate is played on a field with dimensions of 120 x 40 yards (110 x 37 meters). "So getting quickly from one end of the field to another is more important than taking up space." Francisco names Panoy delos Santos among the Philippines' best players today. "He stands just a shade over five feet but he's respected in the Asian Ultimate circuit for his blazing speed and daredevil catches."

For his part, he may be deeply devoted to Ultimate, but that's not the only discipline on his slate. "I started boxing to help me get into better shape and I just very recently played my first flag football game," the 5'8", 170-lb Francisco shares. "If and when I can't run anymore, I'll probably spend most of my time on the golf course." There's a bit of surfing here and there.

Away from the playing fields, he savors watching movies with his girlfriend and buddies. Long-term, Francisco longs to return to coaching basketball. "I used to coach a high school team before, but I quit when I went back to law school," he says. "I really love coaching kids, because once you win their respect, they'll really do everything you say, both on and off the court. Then, you can help mold them the right way, not just as players, but as

people."

The disc drive comes full circle then, because he knows exactly what to do to make his beloved sport even more popular. "We want to be able to show everyone that Ultimate is not just a game of throw-and-catch or is a sport for dogs," vows Francisco. "We believe this is a beautiful sport and we want others to see and experience it for themselves."•

Startup Disc

OR those who want to try out
Ultimate Frisbee, Philippine Ultimate
Association president Frederick
Francisco suggests that they attend the
Beginners' Nights, held every
Wednesday at the Meralco Fitness
Center, Meralco Compound, Ortigas
Ave., Pasig City, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

"All they have to do is show up, bring a white and dark shirt, wear comfortable playing clothes, shoes with good traction for grass or turf (soccer cleats, outdoor shoes...), and P100 for the field fee." Additionally, the PUA recommends a visit to their website (www.philippineultimate.org) where you can find links to helpful information like the rules of the game. • RSDV

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SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 In the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku Increases from Monday to Sunday.

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Tooting his own horn (from page 2)





for me," he said. "A man of few words is at less risk of saying the wrong things that would hurt his organization. As they say: less talk, less mistakes."

Dealing with the media, he notes, is a twoway street. "They get their stories from the information that I give them, and I learn from the questions and the feedback that they give me."

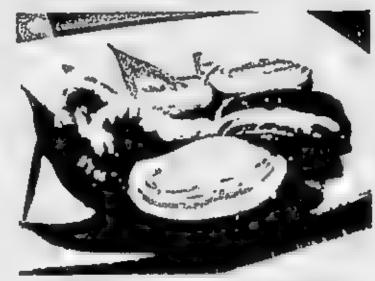
The job can be stressful, but fortunately music provides a balm. His favorite songs on the trumpet, he confides, are "The

Nearness of You," "What a Wonderful World," "Moon River" and gospel hymns, while he bangs out "Celebration" or any Beatles song on the drums.

But he doesn't see himself playing professionally in the future, he demurs. "These hobbies make me healthy in mind, body and spirit," he says. "But I am not about to give up my day job."

For now, at least, the PNP's gain seems to be the music industry's loss.

Living up... (from page 4)



Magnificent mollusk: geoduck clam sashiml

"sky's the langit" price.

To make up for the disappointment, I ordered a sure winner: Wagyu Ohmi Shabu Shabu. The menu proudly claims that Tsukiji serves this "official beef of the Japanese Imperial household

... exclusively" since it opened in 1989. I like that at this restaurant, Wagyu is treated delicately, cut into thin strips and transformed from pink to brown before your eyes. You can actually inspect the marbling before you dunk it into the boiling water at the center of your table. And on this point, Tsukiji does not fail. Chef J Gamboa knows his wagyu.

This beef item, like the Snake River Farm steaks they also offer on the menu, falls within the P2,000 to P3,500 price range. But unlike the tempura, serious meat eaters would know it is very much worth its meat. Possibly because it is another dish that capitalizes on the freshness and quality

standards that distinguish Tsukiji. The commitment to freshness remains evident in their Seasonal Specials Menu, which makes for a unique sashimi experience of bluefin tuna, ark shell, whelk clam, and other seasonal finds that range from P650 to P1,800.

If you feel, however, that this is not the season to be spending, don't worry. Understanding costs as much as cuisine, Mr. Gamboa has introduced lunch and weekend sets that include an appetizer, a soup, a salad and meat or fish for just P400 to P800. And the California Maki, with six generous rolls, is only P290. Have that and a beef soba (P385) and you're good.

Personally, I still prefer the seasonal finds. You can get a good maki almost anywhere, but unique creatures of the sea are an indulgence only Tsukiji can offer, give or take a rare couple of other Japanese restos in the metropolis. After all, the biggest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world is the Tsukiji Fish Market. The restaurant must live up to its name. And happily, it does..

Tsukiji. 3/F Milkyway Building, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas. 8434285 / 8122913. No reservations required. Casual/Business Casual. Major credit cards accepted. Elevator provides wheelchair access.

Good Girl Makes Good (from page 9)

put in," she says. "It's hard to keep up with work and school, but at the same time it can be fun. I just don't have time now for my family and friends. I'm actually at the point where I'm trying to manage my time."

But while she goes to school only two days a week, and shoots for MTV another two or three days, the hectic round of press interviews, pictorials, hosting gigs that are part and parcel of being a DJ/VJ/reporter/model sometimes finds her day ending at 1 a.m., leaving her just three hours of precious sleep before she has to get up and do it all over again.

Not that she's complaining. Things in her life now are exactly where she dreamed they would be.

"It's so funny because I'm really a shy girl," she says. "Ever since I was young, I loved singing and dancing by myself in front of the mirror. But I could never really do it in front of an audience. I think this is my chance now to just share with everyone what I've got. But there's still a part of me that's still not used to it—nahihiya pa rin (still embarrassed). I'm trying to adjust because I'm still camera-conscious. With MTV and courtside reporting, I'm still trying to get used to the camera."

There can be no doubt, however, that the camera loves her. Her natural stage presence and relaxed demeanor helped her cinch her spot on the MTV VJ hunt.

"It was always a secret dream of mine," she admits. "I watched a lot of MTV. It's so funny because I used to practice being a VJ in front of the mirror when I was young—but I honestly never expected to win. I thought: if I win, good, if I lose, OK lang, I'm just here to have fun. I didn't want

to play a role that was 'VJ-ish.' I was like, 'This is my personality, this is what I can offer you guys.' I'll just be myself and show them who I am. And if they don't like me, fine."

This strategy, if strategy it was, worked:



Built around music: Andi and the X830

she landed in the magic six. In spite of her squeaky-clean, girl-you'd-like-to-take-home-to-mom persona—or maybe because of it, music television already having a surfeit of smart-alecky ironic types—she stands out in the VJ line-up.

"In the Magic team, she's the moral girl," concurs Mo Twister. "She's conservative, she's the girl every parent would dream of, and we need that on the show because we can be edgy and racy, and Andi reminds us that there are still good things out there."

This doesn't exactly fit in with the popular image of the VJ as party girl; but Mo begs to differ. "Donita (Rose) was very Christian when she was on MTV, and she made it

look good. She showed that you can have a positive image and still be a good VJ."

At the mention of Donita, Andi brightens noticeably.

"If there's one person I want to be like, it would be Donita. We believe in the same things," she says. "I don't think you have to compromise anything to please MTV, or be what people think a VJ should be, because sometimes you have to set the standard."

Being a radio jock and an MTV VJ means that music is pretty much a large part of her life now. "I used to be part of a dance troupe in Miriam, so I used to listen to R & B and hip-hop. But when I joined the radio station I became open to more types of music. Like right now, I'm more into alternative music."

In keeping up with the latest pop music trends, Samsung has released several music phone models: the Ultra Music F300, the E740, and the X830. The F300 has proven to be perfect for Andi.

"My life now is built around music, so throughout the day I use the Samsung SGH F300. It's so useful for me." Andi, who admits to being something of a techie, says she also doesn't want to blow her budget on the latest gadget. "The Samsung works for me because it's a phone and an MP3 player, and it's small. I can carry it in my bag. That's important for a girl."

What's next for Andi Manzano? She's almost afraid to ask.

"Everything in my life now is falling into place where I want it to be," she says. "I can't ask for anything more. And it's so exciting for me right now because I don't know what's going to happen next week." •

All Aboard (from page 5)

good warm up is important.
Arthur advises: "When you ride,
you're usually excited. But you
have to discipline yourself.
Before you ride, do some
stretching. Otherwise, you'll get
injured a lot faster."

4. Rent first. There's no need to splurge on equipment right

away. Most wakeboard facilities like the CamSur Watersports
Complex rent out the equipment including safety gears like the life vest and helmet. "If you're just trying it, better to rent. When you're good at it already, then you can buy your own," Arthur and Martha advise.

5. Go for water. Don't

overestimate your abilities. Get the feel of wakeboarding on water before trying the ramps and other stunts. "Start with water first," suggests Martha. "If you're not athletic, it may take some time to learn the sport. You may just fall and fall, or if you get to stand up, it will just be for a short time. The next day, expect your whole body to feel sore."

6. Have fun. As many attest, wakeboarding is both challenging and fun. So throw your inhibitions to the wind! "Some women are scared to get bruises. Some just don't want to get dark," notes Martha. And don't worry if you fall often. Even experts tumble. "In competitions, you're allowed to fall twice," says Arthur.

Jasmine W. Payo



Martha King: Know your limits

always learn new tricks. It's progressive. It's not as boring compared to, I don't know, maybe golf? You always want to push yourself to be better to do more extreme tricks."

Villafuerte, president of the Philippine
Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, also
shares this sport's emotional highs:
"Wakeboarding is really enjoyable and
quite addicting. Imagine the feeling of
being able to float on water. It's really great
to be able to stand on your board, go
around the lake, do some basic tricks and
moves."

He adds, "It's a very relaxing sport and at the same time, a good form of exercise since your whole body is involved. You notice this with wakeboarders—most of them are physically fit."

Buchanan cites another reason to test the

wakeboarding waters. "It's very easy, easier than surfing or skateboarding. All you need to do is listen to your trainers and you'll be able to wakeboard on your feet in no time," notes this father of three-year-old Takiah who may be among the youngest wakeboarder in the world.

"You can start with kneeboarding and that's probably even easier than riding a bike.

Some people will have five to 10 go's before they're able to stand up, but once they do, they get addicted to it."

A crash course is possible, says King, the first local champion in the Philippine Cable Wakeboard Nationals last year. "Everything you need to learn about wakeboarding, you learn CamSur Park. There are things you develop when you keep on riding."

Notes Villafuerte: "The basic thing you have to have is a sense of balance, which everybody can easily develop. That's why anybody can wakeboard." He adds: "Of course, like in any sport, you have to have the will to learn it. At least 95 percent of the people who try to learn in the CamSur wakeboard park actually manage to stand up. The remaining five percent are those who easily gave up after a few attempts."

Why, says Villafuerte, a 76-year-old Filipina even tried the sport. "[She was] able to stand up and go around the lake on her first attempt," he recounts. "This only shows that wakeboarding is for everybody, boys and girls, young and old. All they have to do is be bold enough to try it."

Although the sport is deemed safe since riders wear protective gear like helmets and vests, Martha King however cautions newbies to know their limits in trying the flips, turns and other stunts that are part of the sport.

"There's no training, so you're on your own," she says. "I've torn my ACL (anterior cruciate ligament). I wasn't good in wakeboarding at that time and I tried the

ramp already. I fell really bad and twisted my knee."

But there's really nothing to fear if riders abide by the safety precautions, she adds.

"When you fall, you can swim back to shore. There are those who fall and panic, but there are lifeguards."

Says Buchanan: "If you fall, you don't fall on concrete so it doesn't hurt as much. Once you hit the water, it'll probably hurt for a few seconds and then you can go back and try again."

The expenses, surprisingly, won't hurt the pocket either. "We definitely made wakeboarding a mass-based sport. It only costs P120 to ride in CamSur," says Villafuerte. "The price includes the basic equipment and free training. It would cost you at least US\$ 25 per hour to ride abroad. We made it very affordable that's why it's getting so popular."

Buchanan agrees: "The place, the facilities and wakeboarding fees are ridiculously affordable! It's so affordable, people from other countries stay here for months."

Yet serious wakeboarders like the King couple have invested on their own equipment that cost from P10,000-P15,000. Arthur King, in fact, is hoping to crash in the top 10 world rankings in a few years.

"Filipinos can definitely excel in it," says Villafuerte. "Last year we had our first Philippine cable wakeboard nationals and 76 people participated, a very good turnout for a first ever national competition. This year, we will be having our second nationals (Oct. 26-28) and are expecting double the number from last year. With this enthusiasm and rapid growth of the sport in the Philippines, sooner or later we will have wakeboard world champions who are Pinoys."•

Figure It Out

P600 – Whole-day rate for wakeboarding at the CamSur Watersports Complex in Camarines Sur; inclusive of wakeboard use and training

140 kms – Estimated distance between Manila and Anilao, Batangas, a popular diving spot

24 – Estimated number of diving sites between Anilao and Maricaban Island in Batangas

25 – Estimated number of shipwreck dive sites in the Philippines

P9,200 to P12,000 – Cost range per person of dive packages offered by the Department of Tourism; includes accommodation for three days and two nights, boat dives, meals and roundtrip transfers; covers Puerto Galera in Mindoro, Apo Island in Negros, Malapascua Island in Cebu and Coron in Palawan.

2 meters – height of a standard goalpost used in futsal (indoor soccer)

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research Sources: Inquirer Archives, Lakbay Pilipinas website, Department of Tourism Official website, FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game 2006

Samsung phones: think style, efficiency - and music

SAMSUNG





(Top) Fe Varilla
Samsung Mobile
Group head
(Left) Samsung F300
(Below) Fitness First:
Samsung music tour
stop

VISIC has always been the best way to reach out to a generation. Think rock and roll in the '50s; disco in the '70s, punk in the '80s, grunge in the '90s and hip-hop in the new millennium.

No wonder Samsung has put music at the center of its latest phone models, all of them MP3-enabled and powered by the Bang & Olufsen ICEpower Amp. Aside from being stylish and super slim (1.4"), the clear graphic display explains why Samsung is the world's leader in semiconductor chips and LCD screens, and the supplier of choice of these components to its mobile phone rivals. No wonder it is currently ranked third worldwide and second in the Philippines.

Samsung has extended the F300's battery life with a bundled leather case that prolongs battery life for up to four days at P20,000, it's a MP3 player and phone package that's hard to resist.

Focused on gaining a bigger market share, Samsung continues its non-stop promotional tour from Manila to Davao. That's part of playing "catch-up" in a billion-peso industry which, for Fe Varilla, Samsung Mobile Group head, is literally a song. Taking time off from her hectic schedule that involves orchestrating Samsung's fashion shows, mall events and music tours, Varilla shares her excitement about Samsung's latest marketing campaign:

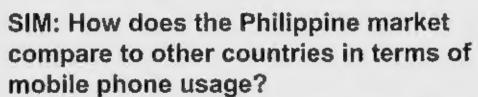
SIM: What makes Andi Manzano your ideal spokesperson?

Varilla: Andi is a fresh face in the industry, being the newly-chosen MTV VJ. Like her, our music phones exude freshness, especially the breakthrough design of our

dual-faced gadget, the F300.

SIM: Can you describe Samsung s target market?

Varilla: It's mostly A, B and C. When we started, we only catered to consumers whose preference was upscale and premium. This year, with our thrust to get a greater market share, we started catering to the needs of the youth, the yuppies and middle-income families.



Varilla: The Philippines is mostly an SMSuser country, since it remains the most cost efficient means to communicate.

SIM: Is the idea of music-as-platform a global direction or just limited to the Philippines?

Varilla: The music platform was part of our global direction, but of course custom-fitted to suit the Philippine market.

SIM: What makes Samsung different from its competitors?

Varilla: We have utmost regard for the aesthetics of our phones without sacrificing their features and efficiency. Trend-wise, we can say we are ahead of competitors. We have the nicest slider phones, the thinnest and most stylish phones and the dual-face phones.

SIM: What is Samsung s best selling mobile phone in the Philippines?



Varilla: The E250 and our flagship phones from last year and this year, the D900 and U600, respectively.

SIM: Where does Samsung stand in the form versus function debate?

Varilla: Samsung's strength lies in its capability to create fashionable and stylish products without sacrificing function. Form and function come hand in hand to create hit models.

ERRATUM:

In the Sept. 16 issue of SIM, there was a mix-up in the opening of Italianni's Trinoma and Bonifacio High Street outlets. The High Street branch was opened on Sept. 14, while Italianni's Trinoma is still in the works. SIM regrets the error.

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